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PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION

CONTENTS

| *Chapter* | | *Page* |
|---|---|---|
| INTRODUCTION | | 3 |
| I. | ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION | 4 |
| | A. Opening of the session | 4 |
| | B. Attendance | 4 |
| | C. Election of officers | 6 |
| | D. Credentials | 6 |
| | E. Agenda | 6 |
| | F. Organization of the work of the session | 7 |
| | G. Work of the sessional committees | 8 |
| II. | ADOPTION OF DECISIONS | 10 |
| III. | POLICY ISSUES | 22 |
| IV. | STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT | 43 |
| V. | COORDINATION | 45 |
| VI. | PROGRAMME MATTERS, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION | 47 |
| VII. | THE ENVIRONMENT FUND, OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS AND ADMINISTRATION | 48 |
| VIII. | PROVISIONAL AGENDA, DATE AND PLACE OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL | 49 |
| IX. | OTHER BUSINESS | 50 |
| X. | ADOPTION OF THE REPORT | 51 |
| XI. | CLOSURE OF THE SESSION | 52 |

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*Annexes*


I. DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION . . . . . 53

II. REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE . . . . . 119

III. REPORT OF THE FUND COMMITTEE . . . . . 163

IV. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON PROPOSALS FOR ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF UNEP IN FULFILLING ITS MANDATE . . . . . 179

V. REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME ON PLANS TO IMPLEMENT AGENDA 21 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCED) . . . . . 185

VI. LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION . . . . . 199

## INTRODUCTION

The seventeenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at UNEP headquarters, Nairobi, from 10 to 21 May 1993. The Council adopted the present proceedings at the 10th meeting of the session, on 21 May 1993.

# CHAPTER I

## ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

### A. *Opening of the session*

1. The seventeenth session of the UNEP Governing Council was opened on 10 May 1993 by Mr. L.P.J. Mazairac (Netherlands), President of the Council at its sixteenth session, who outlined the main tasks before the Council at the session in the light of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the changing world situation in the post-cold war era.

2. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council heard a statement by the Executive Director of UNEP. The statement was subsequently circulated as document UNEP/GC.17/28/Add.1.

### B. *Attendance*

3. The following 54 States members of the Governing Council[1] were represented at the session:

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Bangladesh
Barbados
Botswana
Brazil
Burundi
Cameroon
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Denmark
France
Gabon
Gambia
Germany
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lesotho
Malaysia
Mauritius
Mexico
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russian Federation
Rwanda
Senegal
Slovakia
Spain
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Tunisia
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela
Zaire
Zimbabwe

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[1] The membership of the Governing Council was determined by elections held at the 45th plenary meeting of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, held on 6 November 1989, the 66th plenary meeting of the forty-fifth session, held on 12 December 1990, the 35th plenary meeting of the forty-sixth session, held on 22 October 1991, and the 95th plenary meeting of the forty-seventh session, held on 19 January 1993 (decisions 44/309, 45/317, 46/306 and 47/318).

4. The following States not members of the Governing Council but Members of the United Nations or members of a specialized agency or of the International Atomic Energy Agency were represented by observers:

Algeria
Armenia
Belgium
Benin
Burkina Faso
Canada
Central African Republic
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Djibouti
Egypt
Ethiopia
Finland
Ghana
Greece
Guinea
Holy See
Hungary
Iceland
Iraq
Israel
Jordan
Malawi
Maldives
Mali
Monaco
Morocco
Mozambique
Nepal
Oman
Panama
Republic of Korea
Saudi Arabia
Seychelles
Slovenia
South Africa
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Togo
Turkey
Uganda
United Republic of Tanzania
Yemen
Zambia

5. The following United Nations bodies and Secretariat units were represented:

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO)
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS)

6. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation (ILO)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
World Bank
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was also represented.

7. The following other intergovernmental organizations were represented:

Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)
Commission of the European Communities
Commonwealth Secretariat
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO
League of Arab States
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Organization of African Unity (OAU)
Prefential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA)
World Tourism Organization (WTO)

8. In addition, 27 international non-governmental organizations were represented by observers.

9. Palestine and the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania were also represented.

### C. *Election of officers*

10. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council elected the following officers by acclamation:

| | |
|---|---|
| *President*: | Dr. E.O.A. Aina (Nigeria) |
| *Vice-Presidents*: | Mr. E. Libid (Philippines)<br>Mr. A. Lizarralde-Maradey (Venezuela)<br>Mr. E. Fiil (Denmark) |
| *Rapporteur*: | Mr. A. T. Kowalewski (Poland) |

11. In his acceptance statement, the President said that, at UNCED, the mandate of UNEP had been expanded to include new priorities that had major policy implications. At its current session, the Council was expected to map out precise directions to the secretariat as to where those priorities should lie. Progress must be made by building on the success that had been achieved in order to narrow the gap between the developed and developing countries. Concrete efforts also had to be made to establish a new and more equitable international economic order. Calling on all delegations to help make the Council's deliberations fruitful, he stressed that the importance of the environment in sustainable development could not be overemphasized, since environment permeated all aspects of human life, influenced social and economic development, as well as trade, and was decisive for all lives on Earth. Reaffirming the crucial need for global cooperation in translating into reality the various resolutions and programmes geared towards saving the Earth from further degradation, he wished all present success in their work at the session.

### D. *Credentials of representatives*

12. In accordance with rule 17, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Bureau examined the credentials of representatives attending the session. The Bureau found the credentials in order and so reported to the Council, which approved the Bureau's report at the 9th meeting of the session, on 20 May.

### E. *Agenda*

13. At the opening meeting of the session, the Council adopted the following agenda for the session on the basis of the provisional agenda approved by the Council at its sixteenth session (UNEP/GC.17/1):

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organization of the session:

   (a) Election of officers;

   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Policy issues:

   (a) General policy issues;

   (b) Issues arising from the resolution of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

5. State of the environment.

6. Coordination:

   (a) Coordination within the United Nations system;

   (b) Other coordination.

7. Programme matters, including the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification.

8. The Environment Fund, other financial matters and administration.

9. Provisional agenda, date and place of the eighteenth session of the Council.

10. Other business.

11. Adoption of the report.

12. Closure of the session.

### F. *Organization of the work of the session*

14. At the opening meeting of the session, the Governing Council considered and approved the organization of the work of the session in the light of the recommendations contained in the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/GC.17/1/Add.1) and the timetable of meetings suggested by the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.17/1/Add.1, annex I).

16. In accordance with rule 60 of its rules of procedure and following the organizational structure for its sessions decided upon at its fifteenth session (decision 15/1, section II, paragraph 2 of 25 May 1989), the Governing Council at its opening meeting established two sessional committees of the whole, a Programme Committee to deal with programme matters and a Fund Committee to deal with the Environment Fund and administrative and other financial matters. The Council decided that the Programme Committee should be allocated, in addition to agenda item 7 (Programme matters, including the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification), those parts of agenda item 6 (a) (Coordination within the United Nations system) covered by the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of UNEP and Habitat (UNEP/GC.17/4) and the parts of the 1991 and 1992 reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

(UNEP/GC.17/11 and UNEP/GC.17/12) dealing with the coordination and follow-up of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification. The Council also decided that the Fund Committee should be allocated agenda item 8 (The Environment Fund, other financial matters and administration). It further decided that each Committee might wish to consider those parts of the report of the Executive Director on the future course of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.17/28) that were pertinent to the issues referred to it, and in particular:

(a) In the case of the Programme Committee, part IV, sections A (UNEP's programme for 1994-1995 and implementation of Agenda 21) and B (International coordinating machinery for Agenda 21) of the Executive Director's report;

(b) In the case of the Fund Committee, part II (New directions in management of UNEP), and part IV, sections C (UNEP management and organization study), D (The Global Environment Facility) and E (The financial situation) of the report.

16. It was agreed that the two sessional committees would meet concurrently during the first week of the session to complete their work by the afternoon of Friday, 14 May. Plenary would recommence at the ministerial or equivalent level, on Monday, 17 May, in keeping with section II, paragraph 2(b), of Council decision 15/1, to discuss major policy issues and the remaining items of the agenda.

17. The Council also agreed that the Programme Committee and Fund Committee should be chaired respectively by Mr. Lizarralde-Maradey (Venezuela) and Mr. Fiil (Denmark), vice-presidents of the Council. The Council also decided that Mr. Libid (Philippines), Vice-President of the Council, would assist the President in the performance of his functions related to plenary.

18. The Council further decided to establish an informal open-ended negotiating group under the chairmanship of Mr. Libid (Philippines), Vice-President of the Council, with a core membership of two representatives from each regional group to consider the texts of draft policy decisions before their submission to the plenary meeting of the Council for formal consideration.

19. At the second meeting of the session, convened on Friday, 14 May 1993, the President announced his intention to establish an informal group of Friends of the President to examine and help finalize the report on the Governing Council's plans to implement Agenda 21, as outlined in document UNEP/GC.17/27. That report, he stated, could subsequently be channelled through the negotiating group or could be submitted directly to the Council. The President proposed that the informal Friends of the President group should comprise two representatives from each of the regional groupings.

20. After a lengthy discussion on procedural issues among the representatives, the Council agreed that all draft decisions, including those emanating from the sessional committees and the report of the Friends of the President, should be submitted to the informal open-ended negotiating group for subsequent submission to the Council for formal consideration.

### G. *Work of the sessional committees*

21. The Programme Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lizarralda-Maradey (Venezuela) held 11 meetings, from 10 to 15 May. At its 1st meeting, it approved the proposals for the organization of its work

as contained in document UNEP/GC.17/PC/L.1, which were subsequently slightly modified at its 2nd meeting, on 10 May (see UNEP/GC.17/PC/L.1/Corr.1). At its 3rd meeting, on 11 May, it elected Dick C. de Bruijn (Netherlands) as Rapporteur.

22. The Council took note of the Committee's report at its 9th plenary meeting, on 20 May. The report of the Programme Committee, which was originally circulated as document UNEP/GC.17/31, is reproduced in annex II of the present proceedings.

23. The Fund Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Fiil (Denmark), held 10 meetings, from 10 to 14 May. At its 1st meeting, on 10 May, it approved the proposals for the organization of its work as contained in document UNEP/GC.17/FC/L.1. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 May, it elected Mr. Jusuf P. Nugroho (Indonesia) as Rapporteur.

24. The Council took note of the Committee's report at its 9th plenary meeting, on 20 May. The report of the Fund Committee, which was originally circulated as document UNEP/GC.17/30, is reproduced in annex III of the present proceedings.

## CHAPTER II

## ADOPTION OF DECISIONS*

*Cooperation and linkages between the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations bodies (decision 17/1)*

1. At the 10th meeting of the seventeenth session, on 21 May 1993, the Governing Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.22/Add.1, draft decision 2).

2. The representative of India, supported by several other delegations, proposed that the word "staff" and the phrase "through secondment and other appropriate means" should be deleted from paragraph 3 of the draft, in order to ensure that there was no weakening of UNEP headquarters. After a lengthy discussion in which a number of representatives took part, the proposed amendment was withdrawn.

3. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

4. Speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of India said that he had withdrawn his amendment on the understanding that the text was not intended to weaken UNEP headquarters.

5. The representative of Denmark, speaking on behalf of states members of the European Community that were members of the Council, said that the understanding of those States was the same as that of India. Effective UNEP participation in the follow-up to UNCED was not intended to weaken the Nairobi headquarters.

6. The representative of the United States said that he wished to echo the statement made by the representative of Denmark. The intent of the decision was entirely to strengthen, not weaken UNEP. The Commission on Sustainable Development and the Global Environment Facility were established facts and would play key roles in the future actions to follow up UNCED. His delegation believed that UNEP must play a close and active role in coordinating with those two institutions, including with their secretariats. If UNEP did not play such a role, it could be marginalized, that is, weakened, not strengthened. His delegation believed that the motive of all those delegations who spoke in favour of the proposed amendment was, in fact, the same as his own - to strengthen UNEP - and he hoped that the decision would be understood and accepted in that spirit.

7. The representative of Kenya said that his delegation understood that the decision would not mean a weakening of UNEP headquarters.

*Additional proposed follow-up actions to resolutions adopted by the General Assembly related to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (decision 17/2)*

8. Also at the 10th meeting of the session, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.22/Add.1, draft decision 3).

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* For the text of the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its seventeenth session, see annex I to the present proceedings.

9. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Annual Reports of the Executive Director (decision 17/3)*

10. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.22), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.4, annex).

11. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*The United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development (decision 17/4)*

12. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Kenya, Nigeria, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, United Kingdom and Zimbabwe (UNEP/GC.17/L.18/Rev.1).

13. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Application of environmental norms by military establishments (decision 17/5)*

14. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden (UNEP/GC.17/L.19/Rev.1).

15. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

16. The representative of the United States of America, speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, said that his delegation, in a spirit of harmony, had chosen not to obstruct agreement on the decision. However, it did wish to dissociate itself from the consensus, for three reasons. First, it believed that UNEP did not have the expertise to deal with military issues. Secondly, the decision went beyond paragraph 20.22 of Agenda 21: countries should report to the Commission on Sustainable Development, and not to UNEP, on activities related to the overall follow-up to the Conference. Thirdly, his delegation believed that UNEP did not have the resources to become involved in another area that could involve significant demands in terms of both time and staff.

17. The representative of India said that his delegation, too, had difficulties with the decision. While it sympathized with the purpose, it had not received instructions from its Government and would dissociate itself from the decision.

18. The representative of China said that his delegation shared the views expressed by India. Environmental protection was a basic national policy in his country and it was followed by the military sector. However, the decision introduced a new issue for UNEP, and there might be problems in implementing it. His delegation, too, had not received instructions from its Government.

19. The representatives of Malaysia, Brazil and Mexico also expressed reservations about the decision and dissociated themselves from the consensus.

*State-of-the-environment reports (decision 17/6)*

20. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.25, draft decision 1) prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.3, annex).

21. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*The environmental effects of the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait (decision 17/7)*

22. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on the subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L 25/Add.1, draft decision 2).

23. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

24. Speaking in explanation of positions after the adoption of the decision, the representative of the United States said that his delegation believed that the updated report referred to in the second preambular paragraph of the decision was complete and satisfactory.

*Memoranda of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system (decision 17/8)*

25. At the same meeting the Council had before it a draft on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.23, draft decision 1) prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.5, annex, draft decision 1).

26. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*The 1991 and 1992 reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (decision 17/9)*

27. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.23, draft decision 2), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.5, annex, draft decision 2).

28. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (decision 17/10)*

29. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.23/Add.1).

30. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Future reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council (decision 17/11)*

31. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.23/Add.2, draft decision 4).

32. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (decision 17/12)*

33. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21, draft decision 1), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.7, annex, draft decision 1).

34. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea (decision 17/13)*

35. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21, draft decision 2), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.7, annex, draft decision 4).

36. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal (decision 17/14)*

37. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21, draft decision 3), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.7, annex,draft decision 5).

38. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Proposals for an update of the list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance (decision 17/15)*

39. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21, draft decision 5).

40. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Implementation and mid-term review of the United Nations system-wide medium-term environment programme for 1990-1995 (decision 17/16)*

41. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21, draft decision 6).

42. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

43. Speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of the United States drew attention to the comments made by his delegation on the subject in the Programme Committee (annex II, chapter III, section A, paras. 317-318).

*Transfer of environmentally sound technology (decision 17/17)*

44. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21, draft decision 7).

45. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes (decision 17/18)*

46. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21, draft decision 8), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.7/Add.1, annex).

47. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Desertification (decisions 17/19 A to C)*

48. At the same meeting, the Council had before it three draft decisions on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21 and Add.1, draft decision 4, 9 and 10), prepared on the basis of earlier drafts on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.7, annex, draft decisions 7, 8 and 9).

49. The draft decisions were adopted by consensus.

*Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (decision 17/20)*

50. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21/Add.2, draft decision 11), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.7, annex, draft decision 6).

51. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*International environmental technology centres (decision 17/21)*

52. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21/Add.2, draft decision 12), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.7, annex, draft decision 2).

53. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Environmental indicators (decision 17/22)*

54. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21/Add.3, draft decision 13).

55. On the proposal of the representative of Saudi Arabia, the Council decided to insert a new operative paragraph 2 in the draft decision, by which it would recognize that the subject of environmental indicators was a cross-cutting issue.

56. The draft decision, as orally amended, was adopted by consensus.

*Urgent measures for the conservation of the African elephant and African and Asian populations of the rhinoceros (decision 17/23)*

57. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21/Add.3, draft decision 14).

58. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Climate (decisions 17/24 A to C)*

59. At the same meeting, the Council had before three draft decisions on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21/Add.3, draft decisions 15, 16 and 17).

60. The draft decisions were adopted by consensus.

*Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (decision 17/25)*

61. At the same meeting, the Council had before a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21/Add.4), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.7, annex, draft decision 3).

62. The representative of Brazil said, and the Council agreed, that the informal negotiating group had decided that an additional preambular paragraph should be inserted in the draft decision, by which the Council would take note of chapter 39 of Agenda 21.

63. The draft decision, as orally corrected by the representative of Brazil, was adopted by consensus.

64. Speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of Colombia said that her delegation recognized the major contribution of UNEP in the field of environmental law, as well as the need for the future development of the subject. It did, however, have to refrain from approving the Programme annexed to the decision since it contained elements that had been the subject of comment by her country's experts on environmental law.

*United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance (decision 17/26)*

65. At the same meeting, the Council had before a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21/Add.5, draft decision 19).

66. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Action for countries with economies in transition (decision 17/27)*

67. At the same meeting, the Council had before a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21/Add.6, draft decision 20).

68. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*The United Nations Environment Programme and the strengthening of the regional offices (decision 17/28)*

69. At the same meeting, the Council had before a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.21/Add.6, draft decision 21), prepared on the basis of earlier drafts on the same subject submitted by Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay (UNEP/GC.17/L.14) and by Gambia, on behalf of the African Group (UNEP/GC.17/L.16), as well as an informal proposal by Australia.

70. The Secretary made oral corrections to the third preambular paragraph and paragraph 2 (a) of the draft decision.

71. The draft decision, as orally corrected, was adopted by consensus.

72. Speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of Brazil said that his delegation would have preferred the proposals by the Executive Director called for by the decision to be submitted to Governments before final implementation.

*Intergovernmental forum on chemical risk assessment and management (decision 17/29)*

73. At the same meeting, the Council had before a draft decision on this subject, submitted by Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden (UNEP/GC.17/L.13).

74. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Convention on biological diversity (decision 17/30)*

75. At the same meeting, the Council had before a draft decision on this subject, submitted by Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Kenya, Mauritius, Norway, Senegal, Sweden and United Republic of Tanzania (UNEP/GC.17/L.11).

76. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (decision 17/31)*

77. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject submitted by Kuwait, Malaysia and Tunisia (on behalf of the Arab group) (UNEP/GC.17/L.15).

78. The representative of Iran said that his delegation had reservations regarding the last preambular paragraph of the draft decision, which made unjustified reference to the so-called Middle East peace negotiations. As for the rest of the draft decision, his delegation acknowledged its merit and considered the content very positive and technical in nature and, as such, fully supported it.

79. The representative of Israel said that his delegation objected to both the spirit and the content of the draft. The draft, far from being technical, was politically motivated and irrelevant to UNEP. It referred to Security Council resolutions that did not deal with the environment. Such matters should be discussed in other forums. It distracted UNEP from its task, and dangerous precedent would be set if countries brought their conflicts to UNEP. The draft was one-sided and ignored the profound changes in Israel and the region, as well as the fact that direct negotiations were taking place in a genuine effort to reach a solution.

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The draft could hamper those efforts. His delegation believed that the draft was hostile, political, and anti-Israel and would treat it as such. He hoped that it would not receive support from the Council.

80. The representative of Tunisia said that the draft was purely technical. Its language was very moderate throughout and devoid of political connotations. All that was sought was information on the state of the environment in the area, including information on the changes that had occurred. He hoped that the draft would be adopted by consensus.

81. The representative of Kuwait said that the draft was balanced and called for information on the deteriorating environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. He hoped that the Council would approve it.

82. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a vote on the draft decision was taken by roll call. The draft decision was adopted by 15 votes to 1, with 34 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

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| *In favour*: | Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia, Venezuela. |
| *Against*: | United States of America. |
| *Abstaining*: | Argentina, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Slovakia, Spain, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Zimbabwe. |

83. Speaking in explanation of vote after the adoption of the decision, the representative of the United States said that his Government had to oppose the decision. As the Council was aware, the multilateral working group on the environment of the Middle East peace process was convening that month. That group included many parties in the region and received contributions from many parties from outside the region. The United Nations participated fully as an extra-regional participant in the group. His Government found it highly unusual that a United Nations governing body would support a decision that bore so closely on matters being addressed elsewhere in a forum that benefited from the support and participation of the United Nations itself, as well as that of the parties in the region.

84. The representative of Australia said that his Government supported all international actions to halt environmental deterioration but was opposed to the politicization of debate in, and action by, technical bodies of the United Nations.

85. The representative of Denmark, speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Community that were members of the Council, said that those States had abstained on the decision because it went beyond what was appropriate for a decision adopted a technical body such as the Governing Council of UNEP. The European Community and the member States fully supported the Middle East peace process based on the Security Council resolutions and its endeavours to find an just and lasting solution to the Arab/Israel conflict and the Palestinian question.

86. The representative of Japan said that his Government had been making a great effort to contribute to the Middle East peace process, particularly by chairing the working group on environmental issues in the multilateral negotiations and therefore fully understood the importance of environmental issues in Palestine. However, since UNEP was a technical body, which dealt with technical matters, his delegation did not think it appropriate for such a decision to be taken up in the Council. That was why his delegation had abstained in the vote.

87. The representative of the Russian Federation, speaking on behalf of the members of the Eastern European Group that were also members of the Council, said that those States had abstained for the same reasons as those outlined by the representative of Denmark. They did, however, support the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, as well as the Middle East peace negotiations.

88. The representative of India said that his Government's policy was well known. It supported the Middle East peace process, but there were elements in the draft decision that went beyond environmental issues. His delegation had therefore abstained in the vote.

89. The representative of Norway said that Norway had abstained in the vote on the draft and would like to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Denmark.

90. The representative of Poland said that his delegation's position was the same as that expressed by the representative of Denmark. His Government strongly supported the peace negotiations and hoped that they would be successful. However, the task of the Governing Council was to consider environmental problems. Poland had therefore abstained in the vote.

91. The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic expressed his gratitude to all delegations that had supported the draft decision, which was complementary to those decisions that the Council had adopted in the past. The decision touched on purely environmental issues, such as the diversion of rivers, the degradation of land, the cutting of forests and the deportation of people. Agreeing that environmental issues should not be politicized, he said that the Arab people fervently wanted peace and were grateful to all those who supported them in that regard. It did however feel that, the peace process notwithstanding, the report on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories had to be completed.

92. The representative of Austria said that his Government supported the Middle East peace process and participated actively in the working group on water resource development in the area, which was recognized as an important contribution to the peace efforts by all parties involved. However, UNEP as a technical body of the United Nations system, should refrain from political issues dealt with in the appropriate forums. His delegation had therefore abstained in the vote.

93. The representative of Argentina said that his delegation had considered it necessary to abstain in the vote since the decision might go beyond the technical aspects of the issue.

*The Environment Fund: use of resources in 1992-1993 and proposed use of projected resources in 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 (decision 17/32)*

94. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by Brazil (on behalf of the Group of 77) and China (UNEP/GC.17/L.9/Rev.2). Two other proposals covering the same subject matter as the draft decision (UNEP/GC.17/L.10 and L.17) had been submitted and later withdrawn by their sponsors.

95. In reply to a statement by the representative of the United States seeking clarification on the figures contained in paragraph 14 of the draft, the Deputy Executive Director said that the programme would be implemented at the $120 million level but, if resources become available, the higher figure would be used.

96. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

97. Speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of the United States said that the budgetary figures had been agreed too rapidly by the Council. The Fund Committee had done a serious job in preparing a figure based on projected resources. The United States did not agree with the figures contained in paragraph 14 of the decision.

*Programme and programme support costs of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1992-1993 and proposed budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (decision 17/33)*

98. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.20/Add.2).

99. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*On-site interpretation facilities at Gigiri, Nairobi (decision 17/34)*

100. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.20, draft decision 1), prepared on the basis of a previous draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.6, annex, draft decision 1).

101. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Periodicity and duration of sessions of the Governing Council (decision 17/35)*

102. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.20, draft decision 2), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.6, annex, draft decision 2).

103. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Provision of language facilities for the Committee of Permanent Representatives (decision 17/36)*

104. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.20, draft decision 3), prepared on the basis of an earlier draft on the same subject submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.6, annex, draft decision 3).

105. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

106. Speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of the United States said that his delegation did not agree that the full costs of language services for the Committee of Permanent Representatives should be borne by the United Nations regular budget. There was no other comparable body in a voluntarily funded United Nations organization, and it was reasonable for the servicing costs of the Committee to be borne by the Environment Fund. His delegation could, however, accept the existing arrangements, by which the United Nations regular budget financed 25 per cent of the costs. If, however, the regular budget was to finance the entire costs, there would be considerable financial implications and there could be negative repercussions throughout the United Nations system.

107. The representative of Australia said that his delegation had reservations about the decision in that it did not believe that the need for language services for the Committee had been established. Those concerns were reflected in the report of the Fund Committee (annex III).

*Reduction of Governing Council documentation (decision 17/37)*

108. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.20, draft decision 4), prepared on the basis on an earlier draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.6, annex, draft decision 4).

109. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Improvement of facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (decision 17/38)*

110. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.20, draft decision 5), prepared on the basis on an earlier draft submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.6/Add.1, annex).

111. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Management of trust funds and counterpart contributions (decision 17/39)*

112. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.20, draft decision 6).

113. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*The Global Environment Facility (decision 17/40)*

114. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.20/Add.1 and Corr.1).

115. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Financial management and structure of the United Nations Environment Programme, including presentation of financial information and the budget of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 17/41)*

116. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.20/Add.3, draft decision 11),

prepared on the basis of part of a draft decision annexed to the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on proposals for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations Environment Programme in fulfilling its mandate (UNEP/GC.17/L.2, annex II, sections IV and V).

117. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on proposals for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations Environment Programme in fulfilling its mandate (decision 17/42)*

118. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.20/Add.3, draft decision 9).

119. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

120. Speaking in explanation of position after the adoption of the decision, the representative of Pakistan said that his delegation did not agree with the recommendation of the Committee of Permanent Representatives that there should not be an Executive Board (UNEP/GC.17/L.2, paragraph 6 (c)).

*Development of the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (decision 17/43)*

121. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.20/Add.3, draft decision 10), prepared on the basis of a draft decision proposed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives in its report on proposal for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of UNEP in fulfilling its mandate (UNEP/GC.17/L.2, annex I).

122. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

*Tribute to Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, the former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (decision 17/44)*

123. At the same meeting, the Council had before it a draft decision on this subject, submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Chairman of the informal negotiating group (UNEP/GC.17/L.26).

124. The draft decision was adopted by consensus.

## CHAPTER III

## POLICY ISSUES

1. The Council considered agenda item 4 at its 3rd to 7th meetings, from 17 to 19 May 1993. In considering the item, it had before it the following documentation: the executive summaries of the Annual Report of the Executive Director 1991 (UNEP/GC.17/2) and 1992 (UNEP/GC.17/22); the note of the Executive Director on additional proposed follow-up actions to UNCED-related resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (UNEP/GC.17/20); the Executive Director's suggested draft report of the Governing Council of UNEP on plans to implement Agenda 21 of UNCED (UNEP/GC.17/27); the report of the Executive Director on the future course of UNEP (UNEP/GC.17/28 and Corr.1) supplemented by her remarks at the opening of the seventeenth session of the UNEP Governing Council (UNEP/GC.17/28/Add.1) and the draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.4).

2. In introducing the item, the President stated that the seventeenth session of the Council, the first after UNCED, had a duty to lay solid foundations on which UNEP could build to enable it to meet the challenges and fundamental changes that Agenda 21 had assigned. UNEP had to expand its activities, and it was the task of the Council to chart the course of that expansion and take bold steps to enhance the confidence in and the reliance on UNEP.

3. In her introduction to the item, the Executive Director made a statement which was subsequently issued as a Governing Council document UNEP/GC.17/28/Add.2 and Corr.1 (Arabic only).

4. Following her address, the Executive Director, representing Mr. N. Desai, Under-Secretary-General in the United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, read out a statement to the session on his behalf. Mr. Desai believed it was clearly the general expectation that UNEP could play a crucial role in the follow-up to UNCED and in the implementation of its outcome. It was necessary to strengthen UNEP's mandate and enhance its capacity to address effectively the Programme's priorities, as recommended by UNCED. The Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, of which UNEP was a core member, had launched a process of intensive review of relevant programmes and activities to achieve greater complementarity and synergy at the system-wide level. In that endeavour, he looked forward to very close cooperation and interaction with UNEP. Mr. Desai concluded that it was imperative to backstop new mandates stemming from Agenda 21 with additional funding, and in that context the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) had highlighted that the financing of UNEP's Environment Fund at an adequate level was essential.

5. In her capacity as Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS/Habitat), the Executive Director addressed a further statement to the Council. Despite the proximity of the two organizations, she said, their record of cooperation was extremely weak, with little to show after 15 years. The Secretary-General wanted Habitat and UNEP to have a common direction. That did not mean a merger, but rather an opportunity to work together in ways which, logically, should have been followed all along. Cooperation was a matter of will rather than formal links and that will was now present and she wanted to see it translated into workable programmes. She went on to describe five areas where each organization clearly had skills and resources that the other could use: the Urban Management and Sustainable City programmmes; remote sensing and Geographical Information System (GIS) analysis, involving GRID; Habitat's City Data Programme; provision of Global Environmental

Monitoring System (GEMS) data to Habitat programmes; and combined work on environmental guidelines for settlement planning and management. Habitat and UNEP complemented each other in many ways. They should and could be each other's best ally. The areas for cooperation she had mentioned were just a start - a tremendous amount of cooperation was waiting to happen. What had been lacking was not opportunity, but will.

6. Numerous representatives expressed their confidence in and support for the new Executive Director of UNEP. Several expressed their appreciation to her for the excellent preparations for the Governing Council's session. Several other representatives said how much they had appreciated her inspiring introductory statement.

7. One representative noted with satisfaction an increase in the transparency and efficiency in the management of UNEP after the new Executive Director had been in office only a few weeks. Several others agreed with many of the Executive Director's suggested priorities.

8. Many representatives paid tribute to the former Executive Director for his able leadership of UNEP and the immense contribution he had made to the development of global environmental awareness. One said that the former Executive Director had been the target of a tendentious campaign waged by the enemies of success.

9. A number of representatives said that UNEP, as the principal environment organization of the United Nations, had a key role to play in the implementation of the follow-up to UNCED. One representative said that UNEP's future course would have to reflect fully the imperatives and commitments set by UNCED and he urged UNEP to adopt a realistic approach. Several said that, in the light of that, UNEP had to be strengthened at both its policy-making and operational levels.

10. One representative stressed that Agenda 21 was a kind of "wish list" - what was missing most was prioritization. Several representatives said, that, at the current juncture, UNEP's task was to decide on priorities.

11. Some other representatives considered that it was for the Governing Council to define precisely what UNEP's role should be, with particular reference to it's relationship to the Commission on Sustainable Development, coordination within the United Nations system and with other organizations and its regional role.

12. Another representative said she could find no significant reorientation of the proposed programme of activities for the biennium 1994-1995 in line with the commitments made at UNCED, and the fact that UNEP had not provided a detailed programme structure and full costing for implementation of Agenda 21 gave the impression that it was back to "business as usual", as though UNCED had never taken place.

13. Several representatives considered that UNEP had four main roles: the monitoring, assessment and dissemination of information on the state of the environment at a global level; the use of that information to catalyse action in other, more operational, organizations; a role as the key centre of expertise on the development of international environmental law; and a role as an important partner to UNDP in building up capacity in sustainable development.

14. One representative said that UNEP should enhance work on toxic chemicals, oceans and coasts, terrestrial ecosystems and protection of the atmosphere. New tasks had been set, related to environmental economics, regional and subregional cooperation and capacity-building, particularly in developing countries.

15. A number of representatives considered that capacity-building for sound and sustainable development should receive high priority. One of them added that education, training and promotion of awareness should also be given the highest priority.

16. Another representative agreed that UNEP had four main roles: he considered them to be monitoring at the global level, environmental law, regional cooperation and the transfer of know-how and technology. Yet another stressed the role of UNEP as implementing agency for the international environmental conventions, mentioning the regional seas programmes in particular.

17. One representative said UNEP's clean production, tourism and toxic waste initiatives were appropriate responses to serious challenges to environmental management. There were some areas, however, where work to obviate environmental degradation could be more effectively carried out by other, operational, agencies. UNEP's strength lay in the intellectual capacity of its staff.

18. A number of representatives said that UNEP must stress the comparative advantages it possessed, expand its role as catalyst and coordinator, build upon its analytical and conceptual work and strengthen its training and clearing-house capacities. Priorities must be realistic, and UNEP should continue its valuable work on environmental law, implementation of the environmental conventions, the collection and assessment of data and environmental monitoring. One representative said he would like to see the environmental law and institutions programme focus increasingly on providing advice and assistance to developing countries.

19. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, emphasized that UNEP should function as an effective clearing-house mechanism for technical assistance to develop national, legal and administrative capacity. Another representative said that a clear distinction should be drawn between UNEP's catalysing role and its direct programme involvement. UNEP could not be directly involved in all environmental endeavours.

20. Yet another representative said that priority should be given to country and regional issues, with the developing countries being the first among potential recipients. Several other representatives said that their countries' priorities coincided with those put forward by the Group of 77.

21. Welcoming the Executive Director's decision to follow the Agenda 21 mandate in terms of sectoral choices, one representative thought that other priorities were the preparation of a global strategy on water, including the management of freshwater resources, and a forest convention. UNEP should also become more involved in the development of appropriate environmental impact assessment procedures and should enhance its activities on capacity-building, dissemination of information and advice, support for the building of efficient national environmental administrations and the provision of information on environmentally friendly technologies. UNEP environmental consultation centres, he continued, such as Osaka, could make valuable contributions, and the possibility of establishing them in other regions should be examined. Several other representatives attached great importance to UNEP's assistance in the management of freshwater resources. One of them suggested that a United Nations centre for the management of water resources should be established.

22. One representative strongly supported the work of the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre and suggested that resources be increased for its key programmes, such as the International Cleaner Production and the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level programmes.

23. A number of representatives said that UNEP's role and the scope of its programmes had to be redefined, priorities established and additional funds and resources allocated as equitably as possible to programmes. One of them said there was an urgent need to rationalize UNEP in general, and the system of representation and liaison in particular. Some representatives said that the UNEP office in New York should be reinforced in order to cope with its many new functions with regard to the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). One said that UNEP could offer use of its European regional office as the Commission's Geneva liaison section.

24. Several representatives said that, although the Earthwatch programme had an impressive record, the time had come to evaluate it. One of them suggested that the Earthwatch elements should be consolidated in a single integrated unit. Earthwatch, he continued, needed to be made more "user friendly" and accessible, particularly to the developing countries. One said the programme had an early-warning role to play in environmental situations and processes that could constitute a threat to peace.

25. Several representatives said that UNEP should develop and implement an efficient information system. One said it would not only help to support efficient management within the organization, but also redress the shortage of technical information, especially with regard to achieving sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable groups such as women and children. One other representative said that environmental education should be a feature of every plan and programme. One expressed concern at the use of the term "free access" to information, saying that it should be replaced by the concept of regulated access, subject to prior consent by the country under whose jurisdiction the research or activity was being carried out.

26. One representative said that the Executive Director must consider proposals for restructuring most carefully and not rush ahead without being clear about the strategy and objectives. While UNEP's activities should certainly be reassessed in the light of Agenda 21, he doubted whether that implied expansion.

27. Another representative expressed his confidence that UNEP's new leadership would implement necessary changes and he had noted with appreciation the Executive Director's emphasis on promoting the role of women, stronger delegation of authority and teamwork.

28. One representative said that for many years UNEP had tended to finance programmes without real evaluation of their results; there should be a more efficient use of resources so that more and better work could be done with the same amount of money or less. Another representative regretted that many critical issues such as poverty, unsustainable patterns of consumption and the relationship of major sectors of the population - the women and children - with the environment had not been addressed at all. He also noted with disappointment that UNEP had not established a clear-cut action programme to fulfil the responsibilities assigned to it by Agenda 21.

29. One representative stressed the relationship between poverty and environment and pointed out the importance of UNEP's inputs in the social summit to be held in Denmark in 1995.

30. Some representatives said that UNEP could no longer be merely a catalytic and coordinating organization, but must adopt a more dynamic role and actively initiate expanded programmes directed at protecting the environment and achieving sustainable development. One of them proposed the establishment of an intergovernmental group on poverty and the environment and an intergovernmental group on safe drinking water and

sanitation. UNEP must also give urgent attention to the study, called for by a resolution of the Economic and Social Council, on aridity, soil erosion, salinity, waterlogging, desertification and the effects of drought in South Asia. He proposed that a provision be made for that study in the current programme.

31. One representative said that UNEP had the primary task of preparing environmental sectoral master plans. In that context, he questioned UNEP's record in working with and influencing the multilateral development banks. The Asian Development Bank, he continued, had a new policy whereby 50 per cent of all new project loan monies had to be focused on environmental objectives. UNEP should evaluate that policy, with a view to having that approach incorporated into the project preparation procedures of all international funding agencies.

32. One representative said that the working methods of the UNEP Governing Council should be reconsidered in the light of the experience gained during the session. The UNCED follow-up might require some action by the Governing Council every year, and he hoped that the Executive Director would be able to present some proposals along those lines at a later stage. Another representative thought that the best course of action was to be flexible with regard to the frequency of Governing Council sessions. A third representative favoured the re-establishment of annual sessions of the Governing Council, and proposed that environment and economics be the subject of political debate at the eighteenth session. Yet another favoured annual five-day meetings of the Council, with a single standing Committee meeting for eight days.

33. One representative said that the proposed focus on activities dealing with global environment concerns left the clear impression that UNEP was being used as a conduit by the developed countries to channel their funds for their own interests. UNEP's scarce resources should be channelled to addressing the immediate needs of developing countries.

34. Several representatives commended UNEP on its outstanding achievements and expressed the hope that its past successes could be put to use when reviewing other areas and programmes that were not quite so successful.

35. Two representatives commended the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the good work carried out. In view of its important role, one of them requested that it be given the necessary facilities to carry out its work. The other hoped that its role could be strengthened.

36. One representative wished to put on record the reservations he had already expressed in the Fund Committee. In his view, the need for full language services for the Committee of Permanent Representatives had not been fully established.

37. Many representatives described the environmental situation and problems in their respective countries. Several drew attention to the major problems faced by their countries as a result of the increase in the population. One representative referred to the dire environmental consequences that conflict had had in his country.

38. Several stated that their countries had already adopted national plans of action for the environment. The representative of one country said that his Government had established a Ministry of the Environment. Another said that, with the support of UNDP and the World Bank, his Government would shortly begin preparations for its national plan of environmental action. However, it did not have the material, financial and scientific resources to engage in credible national conservation measures and thus needed international cooperation for the purpose.

39. A number of other representatives said their Governments had launched national policies on the environment, had enacted environmental legislation, set up national advisory committees to evolve action plans for the implementation of Agenda 21, developed new guidelines and standards for the control of industrial pollution, or strict regulations for effluent discharges, domestic waste management and the disposal of industrial waste.

40. One representative said that his country's Constitution was one of the few in the world to have included the right to a safe environment and sustainable development in its Charter of Fundamental Human Rights and Freedom.

41. One other representative gave an account of his Government's new bill, which he said was the first legislation in the world based on the results of UNCED and designed to achieve sustainable development.

42. Another representative said his country's national legislation was ignored by shipowners, whose vessels transported oil along its coast, which was polluted by their discharges.

43. A number of representatives said that coordination and careful division of labour between international organizations was of the utmost importance in order to avoid duplication.

44. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that UNEP, in its cooperation with other parts of the United Nations system, should provide high-quality advice on the integration of environmental concerns at an early stage of their activities.

45. Another representative said that many post-UNCED initiatives had already been taken by most of the agencies of the United Nations system, but some had been premature and should have been left to the Commission on Sustainable Development or to the Conference of the Parties to the Conventions on Climate Change or Biological Diversity. Such premature initiatives, he said, fragmented the efforts of others, endangered the attainment of the goals of sustainable development and might prejudge decisions to be taken at a higher level.

46. One representative urged UNEP to collaborate more closely with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and with other forums in order to work towards an international trade order to promote sustainable development.

47. Several representatives welcomed the new close cooperation between UNEP and Habitat. One of them hoped that collaboration between the two in the implementation of relevant sections of Agenda 21, especially concerning sustainable development of human settlements, would enhance their interdependence, while strengthening them as separate and distinct entities. One other said that the two organizations should be able to take advantage of a certain synergy and suggested that their Conference and Administrative Services should be combined. Another concurred, as far as Administrative Services were concerned.

48. Many representatives said that they were fully committed to continuing the implementation of regional plans of action, programmes and activities, which should be enhanced and given sharper focus, making them more efficient and responsive.

49. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that action as a catalyst for regional environmental cooperation and legal agreements would require UNEP to establish a strong regional presence and

to cooperate with the UNDP regional representatives and the regional economic commissions of the United Nations. UNEP should be a centre of excellence and a focus for up-to-date information on the global environment, in close cooperation with relevant international, regional and national institutions. One representative said there was a need for UNEP to engage in regional environmental sector planning, especially in fields where one country could not be expected to act on its own, such as forestry and biodiversity.

50. Other representatives strongly supported the idea of delegating greater responsibility and authority to the regional offices. They added that decision-making should be regionalized and regional needs and concerns should be better reflected in UNEP's programmes and activities. One representative said funds allocated for the subregional and regional programmes should be managed by the fund management officers in the regional offices, thereby allowing greater decision-making power.

51. One representative proposed that UNEP establish a programme specially designed for countries such as his which had economies in transition, and targeted to their special needs through regional offices. Another representative welcomed the initiatives taken by UNEP to assist countries with economies in transition to fulfil their obligations under Agenda 21.

52. Several representatives said that UNEP's regional and subregional offices would need to be strengthened in order to allow it to carry out the functions entrusted to it by UNCED. One other representative said that UNEP needed to have a flexible subregional structure.

53. One representative wanted to hear more about the Executive Director's thoughts on strengthening UNEP's regional organization. It was necessary to be clear about what that involved and the costs. Would staff members increase? How could the running of the organization change? What extra tasks could the regional offices be given?

54. Some representatives said UNEP should concentrate its regional activities to the greatest degree possible. One other representative proposed that UNEP undertake a major review of its existing regional office system. A report on the exact size and location of regional and liaison offices and outposted staff, said another, would be a useful first step towards a review of the functions of such offices.

55. Some representatives, while supporting the strengthening of regionalization, emphasized that it should not be to the detriment of the status and authority of UNEP's headquarters in Nairobi.

56. One representative said he believed that, during the previous administration of UNEP, the Latin American and Caribbean region had been sidelined in a number of ways, particularly at the management level, but also in terms of the scarcity of resources allocated to it. It was fundamentally important to strengthen the regional office, using local experts and, primarily, funds from the region itself.

57. One representative drew attention to the decision by the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to focus on sustainable development and to hold consultations among African countries, United Nations agencies and the international community to that effect. He called upon UNEP to continue providing financial support to the African region and urged the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity to pursue their efforts towards sustainable development. Another representative said that his country was fully committed to the continuing implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Cairo Programme of Action of AMCEN.

58. Another representative emphasized that strengthened international cooperation should be based on respect for the sovereignty of States. Yet another said that, although his country presently required external assistance, he was hopeful that in the near future it could become a contributor rather than a recipient.

59. One representative stated that the regional seas programme for Africa could be revitalized through the existing regional structures. The resultant pooling of the available resources and the utilization of local experts would reduce the pressure on UNEP.

60. The representative of the Seychelles said that his Government had formally submitted a request to UNEP to host the Regional Coordinating Unit for the East African Regional Seas Programme.

61. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the protection of the environment must, as reflected in Agenda 21, be made an integral part of economic development. Natural resource accounting and the use of economic incentives would become an increasingly important part of that process. There was a need for a substantial increase in the efficiency of man's use of the biomass since, as in the case of the withdrawal of freshwater, the limits of the planet's eco-capacity were being approached. A number of representatives stated that the developed world had a special responsibility to assist the developing countries and support the integration of environment and development by providing finance and promoting the transfer of technology so that they could cope with that issue.

62. One representative said that financial instruments were sometimes the only way to achieve improvement of the environment and, in that context, an internationally applied tax on energy might be the first step towards an international eco-tax.

63. Some representatives were particularly glad that the Executive Director had proposed more work on environmental economics and natural resource accounting. One considered the environmentalizing of economics to be highly important. Integrating environmental needs into economic development planning for sustainable development needed to be tackled on a global level. In that context, UNEP could prepare a new manual on project analysis, acceptable to the multilateral development banks, and environment-oriented.

64. Another representative said that economic incentives to environmental improvement could be very effective, since scarcity set its price. Tradeable emission rights and an international tax on energy were examples of that.

65. A number of representatives expressed their support for the leadership role of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) in catalysing sustainable development and acting as a political facilitator to fill the gaps left by other agencies. One representative described sustainable development as a fundamental ethical principle of solidarity across borders and generations regarding the management of the earth's resources. Another said his country was committed to making sustainable development a reality.

66. One representative said that sustainable development involved implementing all the chapters of Agenda 21, which was why the Agenda had set no priorities.

67. Many representatives said that UNEP was in an excellent position to contribute substantially to the work of CSD and cooperate closely with the Commission when it came to consider its reporting methods.

68. A number of representatives said that their countries had adopted strategies or established commissions on sustainable development, or initiated a consultative process to draw up a national plan for sustainable development. One representative said that the management of sustainable development programmes could be more effectively conducted by national Governments, regional and subregional agencies and grass-roots organizations.

69. One representative stressed that the goals of sustainable development were far-reaching and in some cases required fundamental restructuring of the world economy. He considered that there was a need to elaborate an international legal instrument for sustainable development.

70. Several representatives said that the alleviation of poverty was the major issue in sustainable development. One of them said that commitment to eradication of poverty and sustainable development had to be matched by an equal commitment to unconditional respect for man's dignity and his fundamental rights.

71. One representative said that it was illusory to try to solve the problems of the environment without simultaneously tackling the problem of poverty. He stressed the deterioration in trade, declaring that in order to attain lasting development, the creation of a favourable climate for trade was indispensable, and that must include fair prices for raw materials.

72. One representative, noting that UNCED had clearly demonstrated that a sustainable lifestyle was an important ingredient in promoting sustainable development and that the North should practice sustainable development and adopt sustainable lifestyles, wondered why there were no UNEP programmes monitoring unsustainable lifestyles which continued to degrade the environment. Another representative said that an institute in his country had devised a sustainable development index to measure whether and to what extent activities contributed to sustainable development.

73. One other representative said that the high level of consumption in developed countries had created enormous pressure on the environment. Yet another commented that poverty in much of the world contrasted strongly with the uncaring consumption of the earth's resources by the rich.

74. One representative emphasized that economic development provided a material basis for protection of the environment.

75. Another representative said that his country had not been able to obtain grant assistance to implement Agenda 21, due to the artificial and inadequate criteria based on GNP utilized by donors.

76. One representative said there was a gap between words and action which was intolerable in the post-UNCED era. All Governments should admit that they were moving in the wrong direction, and that the common objective was further away than it was a year ago. Too little was being done by the countries of the North - in Europe, for example - but also by those countries of the South that were in a situation of rapid development.

77. One representative informed the Council that his country had acceded to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol. Another said his country intended to accede to the Vienna Convention in the near future. Yet another said his country had acceded to the Montreal Protocol.

78. One representative expressed serious concern at the growing hole in the ozone layer and another spoke in support of the more rapid phase-out of ozone-depleting substances than provided for in the timetable agreed by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held at Copenhagen in November 1992.

79. Several representatives indicated that their Governments would shortly sign or ratify the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. The representative of a developing country said that one of the growing concerns of countries like his own related to technological hazards and their impact on the environment.

80. One other representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said they intended to ratify the Basel Convention shortly, in which connection they were willing to explore the possibility of a global ban on the export of hazardous waste to developing countries.

81. The representative of one country recalled that his Government was very much attached to the principle that hazardous wastes should be eliminated as close as possible to the point of production. It had thus prohibited their export outside the group of countries in question.

82. The representative of France stated that his Government would finance a post of associated expert attached to the secretariat of the Basel Convention.

83. Many representatives indicated that it was their Governments' intention to sign or ratify the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Other representatives said that their countries had already ratified the Convention.

84. One representative underlined the profound impact which continued global warming could have and urged all countries to make an effort to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.

85. Many representatives said that their Governments would shortly sign or ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity, or had already done so.

86. Yet another representative said that his country had signed the Convention, despite certain reservations. However, he hoped that, as and when the Convention was implemented, its contents would be gradually strengthened.

87. One representative stressed that any action to protect and conserve the environment, biological diversity and other natural resources should be carried out in full respect for national sovereignty.

88. The representative of the Seychelles said that his country wished to offer its assistance in the development of a Centre for Biodiversity for the East African region.

89. The representative of Spain gave details of his country's proposals concerning the hosting of the provisional headquarters of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. His country was also ready to host the Conference of the Parties to the said Convention.

90. One representative said that UNEP should assess the loss of biodiversity through deforestation in the temperate and boreal forests, and the threat to biodiversity in extensive monoculture forests in the North.

91. One other representative welcomed the Executive Director's recognition of the need to reorient international conservation measures away from species preservation and towards the sustainable use of species within the matrix of economic development. He emphasized that the key to conservation of the world's biological diversity was wise and sustainable management of natural resources.

92. Another representative drew attention to the role played by indigenous laws and traditional religious practices in protecting plants and animals and their habitats.

93. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the delegations in question had welcomed the UNCED Statement on Forest Principles and thought that consideration should be given to developing those principles into a global forest convention. Another representative said that, while FAO must take an active lead in that area, UNEP could play a useful role in tackling forestry issues from the environmental perspective.

94. Another representative said it was clear that those who repeatedly advocated a global forest convention were ignoring the views expressed at UNCED, and instead of seeking to control the forests in the South should intensify their national efforts on reforestation and afforestation. UNEP, he said, should monitor and assess the damage caused by acid rain, which affected 40 per cent of the forests of Europe.

95. One developing country representative requested support from UNEP and donors for the establishment of a university faculty of forestry.

96. One representative underlined the role of forests not only as $CO_2$ sinks, but also as habitats of biological diversity. A growing number of experts favoured positive market-based initiatives in order to promote sustainable forest management. He emphasized the important efforts made at the international level aiming at both the implementation of sustainable forest management and the creation of an internationally accepted quality mark for timber and timber products from sustainably managed forests.

97. The representative of Canada said his Government was contributing $10 million to establish three model forests in other countries to demonstrate the various approaches to sustainable forestry. In September 1993, Canada would host a seminar of experts on sustainable development of boreal and temperate forests under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

98. The representative of Austria said his country had created a fund of $18 million for projects aimed at a sustainable economic use of tropical forests.

99. Many representatives referred to the problem of desertification, and one gave a detailed account of his country's achievements in combating it, mentioning methods of storing water, afforestation, the cultivation of special crops, desalination techniques and soil enrichment. The representative of Norway said that his Government had provided extra funding for the negotiating process of the Intergovernmental Committee to prepare an international convention on drought and desertification.

100. One other representative said desertification was a global problem deserving the highest priority among environmental issues. Drought and desertification should not be treated as separate entities, he said, because they were closely interrelated.

101. Several representatives commended the efforts made by UNEP and other relevant international organizations in combating desertification and its role in the United Nations Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD) and in coordinating and catalysing activities in the field of desertification. One of them added that Chapter 12 of Agenda 21 could appropriately be regarded as the new framework for activities addressing desertification and drought-related issues.

102. Several representatives welcomed the setting up of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on a convention to combat desertification. One of them said UNEP should play a more prominent role in the exercise, in view of its experience in such matters. He urged UNEP to continue rendering its services in the field of drought and desertification and to coordinate control measures, particularly with regional and subregional organizations such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) and the Permanent Interstate Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

103. The representative of the Netherlands informed the Council that his Government intended to convene a ministerial conference on water supply and sanitation in early 1994.

104. One representative considered that the Governing Council should give the highest priority to allocation of funds for the environmental management of terrestrial ecosystems. Another urged UNEP to pay more attention to the sustainable development of mountain systems, which had an important role to play in ensuring the health of the environment.

105. One other representative said that the quest for development would remain unsatisfied unless environmental concerns were taken into account. He emphasized, however, that poverty was the greatest polluter in his own developing country.

106. One representative said he had been unable to find in any of the relevant Governing Council documents any reference to Chapter 34 of Agenda 21 on the transfer of technology. Another said that insufficient priority was being given to the establishment of centres for the transfer of technology.

107. Another representative said that obsolete and polluting technologies were often imported into the developing countries from the developed countries where they were no longer in use or subject to strict regulations, and there was a need to develop enforcement regulations and appropriate monitoring mechanisms to discourage such continued imports. The Executive Director, he went on, should examine the feasibility of drawing up international guidelines on what information the exporters should be required to provide about the potential environmental impacts of their technology.

108. Several representatives said that the technologies which were transferred were not always suited to the receiving countries and did not sufficiently take account of their priorities. One said environmental protection technology in particular was a very "affluent" technology, not very appropriate for the developing countries. Moreover, there were no manuals offering guidelines on design of systems suited to developing countries' constraints. UNEP should evaluate the situation and draw up a programme for the preparation of new manuals of appropriate technology. One representative said that transfer of technology should be based on an effective and equitable partnership.

109. Several representatives said that developed countries should share the benefits of their financial and technical progress with the international community as a whole and stressed the critical importance of transfer of environmentally sound technology for the implementation of Agenda 21.

110. The representative of Spain said that his country was prepared to contribute human, technical and financial support to a number of projects, and to house the corresponding infrastructures. He mentioned, in that connection, a centre for the integral management of water resources, a

system and centre for the transfer of technology in the Mediterranean and Maghreb area and a system for environmental information, documentation and training and the management of natural resources in Latin America.

111. One representative believed that UNEP's International Environmental Technology Centre should take the lead in formulating a global technology transfer programme to meet the needs of the developing countries.

112. One representative considered that the regional seas programmes had yielded positive results. Another considered it one of UNEP's most successful activities and said that it should be enhanced. Another regretted that the agreement concerning the East African regional seas had not yet come into force and he urged countries to ratify it as soon as possible. One hoped that the South Asian Seas Action Plan would soon become active.

113. One other representative said that the catalytic role of UNEP in the environmental management of oceans and coastal areas was of paramount importance. Another emphasized that, if the seas remained unpolluted and marine species were utilized in a sustainable way, the oceans could continue to be a source of food for mankind. The harvesting of the ocean's resources must be based on scientific management.

114. One representative said it was most distressing that the international community had still not achieved unanimity on the protection of the world's whale population.

115. One representative, observing that sustainable fisheries were dependent on the health of the oceans, said that his Government had been pressing for action on the problem of overfishing on the high seas. His country had also called for international action to address the problem of land-based sources of marine pollution by strengthening the London Convention on Ocean Dumping of Wastes and by establishing a global ocean observing system. Another representative pointed out that it was generally accepted that up to 80 per cent of marine pollution derived from land-based sources.

116. The representative of Canada said his Government was proposing to host another meeting of experts in June 1994 to revise, update and strengthen, as appropriate, the 1985 Montreal Guidelines on land-based sources of marine pollution.

117. The representative of the United States, supporting UNEP's efforts to address the problem of land-based sources of marine pollution, stated that his country had offered to hold the conference on the issue in Washington in 1995.

118. One representative said that the devastating pollution of the fragile and endangered marine environment of the Gulf area was not only the concern of the coastal States, but of the international community as a whole.

119. Another representative said that his country was the main contributor to the regional seas programme in four of its regions. He considered that the Programme could contribute to the preparations for the Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States and the intergovernmental meeting on protection of the marine environment from land-based activities.

120. The representative of Barbados invited all Member States of the United Nations, especially members of UNEP's Governing Council, to participate in the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in his country in April 1994.

He emphasized that environmental concerns such as climate change, sealevel rise and the management and utilization of coastal marine resources were particularly acute in small island developing States. Two representatives hoped that UNEP would contribute its expertise and capabilities to that exercise.

121. Another representative called for a special programme and budget line within UNEP for small island States.

122. Many representatives said that greater financial resources were needed if UNEP was to be able to play its role in the implementation of Agenda 21. Two representatives said that the contributions did not correspond in any way to the commitments undertaken in Rio de Janeiro. A number of other representatives emphasized that the budget proposed for the 1994-1995 biennium was far from adequate in that respect. Some expressed disappointment at the diminishing contributions to the Environment Fund.

123. One representative said there should be a significant increase in the number of contributors to UNEP. One other representative said his Government had doubled its annual contribution in order to strengthen UNEP's ability to play its role in implementing Agenda 21. Another representative said that, if other countries followed the example set by the Nordic States, UNEP's budget for the biennium would amount to more than one billion United States dollars.

124. Several representatives called for a broadening of the base of contributions so that all countries could share the commitment to Agenda 21 according to their capabilities. Several considered that contributions to the Environment Fund should remain voluntary, but that the United Nations scale of assessment should be used to provide an indicative figure of the minimum amount that each country was expected to pledge to the Fund. One representative called for flexibility of approach on the part of aid donors.

125. One representative, agreeing that UNEP's funding basis should be examined, said that the key issue was to give UNEP a better basis for forward planning. Contributors should promptly come up with the funds they promised. Countries should explore the possibility of committing themselves earlier and more firmly to voluntary annual funding. Some representatives expressed a preference for a reduction in the number of dedicated funds. As far as possible, contributions should be channelled into the Environment Fund.

126. One representative expressed concern at a system in which different budgets (core, supplementary or additional) meant that some existing programmes would have to be terminated until the required funds arrived. One other representative said that a stable basis was needed in the form of multi-year negotiated pledges.

127. Yet another representative said that UNEP's dependence on voluntary contributions had proven unsustainable, and that there should be a system of negotiated pledges, structured on the pattern of international development assistance in the African Development Fund replenishments, with more countries contributing to the Environment Fund and sharing the burden, so as to ensure greater financial predictability.

128. One representative recommended that specific resources be made available to enable the implementation of Agenda 21. Some of them could be channelled through UNEP and some through other United Nations specialized agencies. UNEP, in its scientific and technical capacity, should then advise on the use of those resources and would thus be enabled to oversee the implementation of Agenda 21 through different specialized institutions.

129. Some representatives said that UNEP must be mindful of the constraints imposed by limited resources. Such resources must be effectively used if UNEP was to receive donor confidence and increased funding. One of them said it was all the more important for UNEP to concentrate on those programmes and efforts that were critical to its role and mandate.

130. The representative of the United Kingdom said that he was pleased to see more realistic budget plans and announced his country's contribution of $6.9 million to the Environment Fund for the current year. Over the last five years, his country had more than tripled its contribution, to the extent that, in 1992, it had become the second biggest contributor overall.

131. The representative of Japan said that his Government had steadily increased its contribution which, for 1993, was more than a 12 per cent increase on the previous year. He urged other Governments to do likewise. He also stated that his Government was expanding its economic assistance in the field of the environment.

132. The representative of Sweden said that his Government had decided to contribute $1.3 million in additional, non-recurrent, funds to the Environment Fund, aimed at facilitating UNEP action on behalf of developing countries in the early follow-up to UNCED.

133. The representative of Nigeria said his Government would increase its contribution to the Environment Fund for 1994-1995 by 100 per cent, to be paid by the end of the current year.

134. The representative of Gambia said that his Government would make a financial contribution to the Environment Fund for 1994-1995 before the end of the year.

135. The representative of Senegal announced that his Government would make a modest contribution to the Fund.

136. Some representatives said that, a year after UNCED, there was great concern at the continued lack of financial resources, and at the worrying trend towards protectionist measures disguised as environmental concerns in wilful misinterpretation of the fundamental decisions of UNCED. One of them believed such protectionist measures would, in the long run, bring about greater environmental degradation.

137. One representative said that some partners had placed greater emphasis on monitoring natural resources, assessing global environmental indicators and defining theoretical aspects of sustainable development, rather than giving practical support to sustainable development policies. The financial resources available were channelled mostly to projects related to "global issues", such as climate change and protection of the ozone layer, which were caused mainly by the lifestyles of the developed countries, and there were fewer resources for the priorities of the developing countries, namely, to upgrade their developmental and environmental standards.

138. One representative said that Governments should be more honest and admit how little they were actually doing to fund environmental assistance to developing countries. Some Governments, such as his, had increased their overall development aid, albeit by too little, but others had reduced their commitment, and there was a growing tendency for banks not to advance loans for environmental purposes.

139. Another representative said that UNEP should work with the Governments of all affluent countries that funded loans to get them to insist that environmental impact assessment be incorporated into all new loan projects funded by international loan agencies.

140. One representative requested the Executive Director to continue to cooperate in the successful completion of the Global Environment Facility's pilot phase. He welcomed the ongoing restructuring of GEF, stressing in particular transparent governance; universal access to membership, without any mandatory fee; and full responsibility for the agreed incremental costs of relevant activities under Agenda 21, particularly for developing countries. He reiterated his country's call for GEF to regard desertification as the fifth area of priority, and provide the financial mechanism for the implementation of the proposed convention on desertification.

141. Several representatives said UNEP should play a more active role in the administration of GEF. Several other representatives said that, if GEF were to be utilized as one of the funding mechanisms available for the implementation of Agenda 21 and other UNCED decisions, it would need to be properly restructured and modified. One representative believed there was an inherent conflict of interest in UNEP obtaining project funding from GEF.

142. One representative was concerned over the issue of funds targeted for GEF, which he said must be new and additional, over and above the Environment Fund and funds earmarked for development assistance in the area of the environment. He went on to stress that all projects and programmes under GEF should be participatory in approach.

143. One representative, commenting that his country was one of the two main contributors to the Facility, said that it was essential that UNEP should develop an independent expertise through the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), for which UNEP was responsible.

144. Another representative said that he did not support the Executive Director's proposal that GEF should provide funds in support of national environmental activities and those not covered by global environmental conventions. The objectives and focus of GEF had been clearly established by the participants in its four agreed programme areas. Its role should not be confused with that of development aid programmes.

145. Several representatives said they wanted to see a strengthening of UNEP's capacity to contribute actively to the development of international environmental law. One representative underlined UNEP's achievements in the field of environmental law over the past decade. Another representative congratulated UNEP on its handling of the intricate and arduous negotiations that had culminated in the drawing up of the host of conventions designed to safeguard the environment.

146. One representative said he had been unable to find in any of the Governing Council documents a thorough reorientation of the approach to environmental law in order to incorporate fully the ideas and recommendations contained in Chapter 39 of Agenda 21.

147. Another representative said his country was in the process of ratifying all major environmental conventions.

148. One representative drew attention to the guidelines for a code of environmental law submitted to the forty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly. Another said that international legal instruments in time of war should be strengthened so as to ensure environmental security.

149. Some representatives emphasized the importance of protecting the environment in Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories and called for the continued assistance of the Executive Director in drawing up a report of the situation to be submitted to the next session of the Governing Council.

150. The representative of Bangladesh urged the Executive Director to provide and facilitate assistance in terms of short- and long-term measures for the protection of the environment, including pursuing the implementation of Governing Council decision 16/39 on Bangladesh. He specifically requested that his statement be reflected in the report.

151. The representative of the host country, addressing the issue of communications facilities at UNEP headquarters, stressed the close cooperation that existed between UNEP and the authorities in that regard. His Government had authorized installation of UNEP's satellite dish and had already provided the infrastructure to increase international and local telecommunications links, providing more than double UNEP's required capacity. There seemed, however, to have been a breakdown in consultations over the proposed Mercure project. After further discussion and review of the proposal, his Government was prepared to make an appropriate decision.

152. On the question of security, he pointed to the increased number of security personnel around UNEP headquarters, the establishment of a police station in the area, and the recently formed anti-car-theft unit. His Government would continue to improve such arrangements and institute any necessary additional measures, within the resources available to it.

153. The observer for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) said that Agenda 21 had sent a clear message to the United Nations system that closer cooperation between the agencies and programmes was required. In response, UNDP had accepted an invitation from UNEP to take part in joint consultations immediately prior to the current session of the Governing Council. Cooperation between UNEP and UNDP should be very practical and result-oriented, focusing on specific activities and on functional models of cooperation, with particular attention to areas in which the two programmes complemented each other. Close cooperation already existed within GEF and the Montreal Protocol.

154. Areas in which cooperation was expected to increase, she continued, were capacity-building, environmental management training, environmental economics and assisting Governments in preparing, ratifying and implementing global and regional conventions.

155. The observer for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) said that, for a number of years, UNITAR had been a partner of UNEP in several areas, such as training for the implementation of the London Guidelines with the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals and the use of environmental information systems and related technology for resource management with GRID. Furthermore, she emphasized the work of UNITAR for the secretariats of international conventions, such as INC/FCCC, in providing training and outreach activities for signatory States. The UNITAR Environmental Training Programmes had expanded substantially in recent years, owing to generous contributions from various donor sources. UNITAR, she added, would increasingly use all its resources to service to the best of its ability the work of UNEP and other bodies of the United Nations.

156. The observer for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), speaking also on behalf of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), said that the governing bodies of those specialized agencies were fully involved in the exercise of reorienting their programmes in line with Agenda 21 and other results of UNCED, and some of the agencies had adopted strategies and action programmes specifically geared to UNCED follow-up activities. They would also endeavour to

contribute fully to optimizing the use of resources within the United Nations system, which required a sharing of responsibilities and acting in partnership in implementing programmes and activities at global, regional and, in particular, national levels. The first priority was capacity-building in developing countries and the transfer of technology to them. He said that the specialized agencies were subject to zero budget growth, and additional resources would have to be mobilized at the national and international levels if Agenda 21 was not to become another missed opportunity.

157. The observer for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) reaffirmed her organization's commitment to continuing and enhancing cooperation with UNEP on environmental matters relating to industry. Like UNEP, UNIDO would be restructured to focus on sustainable development and the follow-up to Agenda 21. As part of its mandate, UNIDO sought to assist developing countries to acquire the most efficient clean technology suited to the development process. Although industrialization could have a negative impact on the environment, its potential beneficial impact on living standards meant that it could alleviate the poverty which led to environmental degradation.

158. She further stressed that new clean technologies not only reduced pollution but were profitable, because the savings in terms of material and labour offset initial investment expenditure. One of UNIDO's special assets was its experience in helping small-scale and medium-scale enterprises to translate policies into practical action. As an implementing agency for the Multilateral Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, UNIDO was helping developing countries to phase out ozone-depleting substances.

159. The observer for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said that cooperation between UNEP and his organization had traditionally been close and fruitful. Although their spheres of operation appeared to overlap, the duplication was more apparent than real. They were cooperating on the World Climate Programme (in which WMO was the lead agency), on ozone and pollution (where UNEP dealt with the legal and negotiational aspects and WMO coordinated arrangements for global ozone monitoring and research assessments) and on water and desertification. In general, UNEP had a catalytic role in coordinating the environmental programmes and WMO was engaged in operational and implementing activities.

160. The Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change (INC/FCCC) said that if, as expected, the Convention received its fiftieth ratification by the beginning of 1994, the first Conference of the Parties could be held early in 1995, when it would be possible to determine criteria for receiving information, establish procedures and adopt additional protocols. In view of the limitations of available human and material resources and the need to optimize their use by coordinating efforts, the cooperation of the INC/FCCC and UNEP would be mutually beneficial and would avoid duplication. He said that UNEP's assistance to the INC/FCCC was of fundamental importance, and it should play a role within GEF equivalent to that of the other two implementing agencies.

161. The Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on a convention to combat desertification said that the Committee's first substantive session would be held immediately after the Governing Council had concluded its deliberations. That session would be followed by a number of negotiating sessions in various venues. In accordance with the instructions of the General Assembly, its work had to be completed by June 1994.

162. The observer for the Commission of the European Communities said the European Community intended to strengthen its cooperation with the various United Nations bodies and agencies responsible for supplementing the agreements reached at UNCED and, in that endeavour, cooperation with UNEP - including its regional offices, which should be reinforced - was particularly important. UNEP's resources were limited, and if the new requirements resulting from Agenda 21 were to be met, well-defined priorities for its future action should be established, building on UNEP's strength, while leaving some tasks to other agencies and bodies which were in a better position to respond to the new challenges. New contributions would be made available to support developing countries' participation in meetings concerned with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

163. The observer for the World Conservation Union (IUCN) said that there were four areas in which his organization's partnership with UNEP might be developed: environmental law, biodiversity, monitoring and assessment, and oceans and coastal areas. It was a matter for regret that UNEP had not had the opportunity to play its proper role in GEF, and he urged GEF participants and UNEP to insist that, while there was still time, steps should be taken to ensure that the evaluation that was now under way, which was neither thorough, nor open nor independent, yielded an objective assessment of GEF that would allow it to be restructured and thereby properly serve the purpose for which it had been established.

164. The observer for the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) said that his organization had had to confront one of the most serious man-made environmental disasters in recent years resulting from the Gulf war. In tackling the disaster, it had benefited from UNEP's support, but much remained to be done and he hoped that UNEP would continue to provide assistance.

165. The observer for the International Council of Women (ICW) called for the creation within UNEP of a unit to promote programmes on women and the environment. She urged Governments to strengthen UNEP to enable it to fulfil its additional mandate under Agenda 21. Regional offices played an important role at the grass-roots level and they should be reinforced, especially as they were better able to reach women and children.

166. The observer for the International Green Cross (IGC) said that his was a very new non-governmental organization, with a Board made up of high-ranking personalities from every sector of society and all parts of the world. Its three main programme areas were: facilitation of vigorous, timely and effective response to man-made environmental disasters; promotion of value changes through education and communications; and development of international environmental law.

167. The observer for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) said the Association believed that the question of water was of the utmost importance for the well-being of women and families. It had thus published, with technical and financial support from UNEP, two manuals entitled "Water is Life", containing facts, incentives and training materials.

168. The observer for the Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI) said that the Centre represented over 700 non-governmental organizations and grass-roots organizations through the world. Pursuant to Chapter 27 of Agenda 21, it was ready to enter into consultations with UNEP. He wished to support the Greenpeace document on the subject of funding and agreed with its assessment that there was a lack of commitment by Governments, a message the Centre intended to convey to its constituent organizations so that they could take appropriate action.

169. The observer for the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania said that the environment was a subject of concern to all, North and South, men and women. However, the developed world had a special responsibility to assist the developing world, by providing funding, to find a link between the environment and resources. She commended and supported UNEP's initiatives, particularly in southern Africa.

170. The observer for the International Chamber of Commerce said that ICC had a positive view of UNCED because, in its many conclusions, there was implicit and often explicit acceptance that the business community must play a cardinal role in reorienting the world economy towards sustainable development. ICC and its network intended to fulfil that role and envisaged making an important input into CSD. However, work with UNEP would remain the focus of much of ICC's environmental activity.

171. ICC supported the Convention on Biological Diversity and encouraged its ratification; however, it did have important concerns about some aspects and an interdisciplinary working party had been formed to pursue that matter. ICC also supported the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, but was concerned about aspects of its implementation. There was a danger that injudicious application could obstruct or even end international trade in secondary materials. Such trade was important, complementing as it did the goal of sustainable development by means of recycling and reuse. There was also the question of avoiding contradictions within the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the European Community.

172. He went on to cite examples of the numerous other proposals on which ICC and specialized business associations were happy to be working with UNEP, and mentioned that ICC was encouraging the early ratification and implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

173. ICC also undertook independent initiatives, the best known of which was the Business Charter for Sustainable Development, a key element of which would be a joint UNEP/ICC panel on Charter implementation, as proposed in 1992 by Dr. Tolba. More complementary initiatives would follow in areas such as economic instruments and environmental accounting, updates of ICC work on environmental auditing, and consumer-oriented projects on advertising, labelling and packaging. ICC's environmental work was being strengthened by a new unit - the World Industry Council on Environment - whose initial activities would concern trade and environment questions and aspects of Agenda 21 which were considered to be priorities for the business community.

174. The observer for the African Pesticide and Environment Management Foundation (APEMAF) said that UNCED and Agenda 21 had stressed the importance of strengthening the role of the non-governmental organizations, since many of them had well-established and varied experience. The Governing Council should thus review the level of financial and administrative support for NGOs and examine how they could be involved at all levels from policy-making to implementation.

175. The Executive Director, responding to the comments and suggestions made, assured the Council that the secretariat would study the statements made very carefully in order to determine how they could be acted upon. The guidance offered would be extremely useful in reorienting UNEP's work. She had noted that there were many common concerns and she welcomed the thoughtful way in which representatives had reflected upon policy issues. It had been a source of particular satisfaction that United Nations agencies had presented a joint statement, thus providing a concrete demonstration of cooperation. After thanking representatives for their expressions of support, she said that she was gratified to note that many

of the commitments made at UNCED had been reaffirmed and that there was a willingness to cooperate and to compromise. There had also been general recognition of the need to change in the light of Agenda 21.

176. Among the concerns she had noted were the need for prioritization, the emphasis on the pressing needs of developing countries, greater capacity-building, and the strengthening of regional offices. Widespread disappointment at the level of contributions to the Environment Fund had also been expressed, although she had been heartened to note the offers by developing countries to contribute to the Fund. However, there had been a strong commitment to enhancing UNEP's role in GEF.

177. The general support expressed for environmental economics and environmental law as part of the capacity-building process in both developing and developed countries was encouraging. There had been a general feeling that remote sensing was a useful tool, but that it should be aimed at providing concrete assistance to developing countries. She welcomed the strong support expressed for small island developing States and for the future convention on desertification. Many representatives had referred to the link between environmental problems and poverty and UNEP would have to give that issue further consideration.

178. She had been impressed by the innovative suggestions made regarding UNEP's role and welcomed the general recognition of the importance of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Finally, she welcomed the statements made concerning the ratification of conventions on the environment.

*Action by the Council*

179. The Governing Council then proceeded to consider and adopt, at its 10th meeting, a number of decisions on policy issues, namely, decisions 17/1, 17/5. The text of these decisions is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and their process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II, paragraphs 1-19 above.

180. Also at its 10th meeting on 21 May 1993, under agenda item 4 (b) (Issues arising from the resolution of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development), the Council adopted by consensus the revised draft report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on plans to implement Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNEP/GC.17/27/Rev.1). The report is to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session through the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council. It is attached to the present report as annex V.

## CHAPTER IV

## STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1. At its 8th plenary meeting on 19 May 1993, the Council took up its consideration of agenda item 5 (State of the Environment). In its deliberations on the item, the Council had before it the following documentation: the executive summary of the comprehensive state-of-the-environment report (UNEP/GC.17/9); the executive summary of the 1992 state-of-the-environment report: "Poverty and the Environment" (UNEP/GC.17/15); the report of the Executive Director on emerging environmental issues (UNEP/GC.17/18); the draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives: state of the environment (UNEP/GC.17/L.3); the report of the Executive Director on UNEP follow-up to the 1990 state-of-the-environment report "Children and the Environment" (UNEP/GC.17/Inf.7); the report of the Executive Director on hazardous environmental events (UNEP/GC.17/Inf.8); the updated scientific report of the Executive Director on the environmental effects of the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait (UNEP/GC.17/Inf.9); and the note by the Executive Director on future state-of-the-environment reporting (UNEP/GC.17/Inf.11).

2. In introducing the item, the Executive Director gave a brief description of the reports before the Council.

3. A number of representatives said that, unfortunately, the global environment was still deteriorating rapidly, but public understanding of the problem had increased dramatically.

4. One representative said that poverty and its relations to the environment and development had been given high priority in the documentation that had emerged from UNCED, and he expressed the belief that UNEP should contribute to the preparation of the social summit to be held at Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1995. Another representative said that implementation of Agenda 21 was the key factor in combating environmental degradation.

5. One representative said that the most pressing global environment problems were those that were caused by the rich; industrial nations were by far the principal contributors to the emission of green house gases and ozone-depleting substances. Pressure, indirectly exerted through economic and trade systems, often forced the less fortunate to deplete their natural and environmental stock; a solution which transferred environmental problems from the rich to the poor was no solution at all and equitable solution of that tension was the true challenge currently facing the world community.

6. Several representatives commended UNEP's latest state-of-the-environment report. One representative requested assistance to enable developing countries to set up capabilities for their national state-of-the-environment reports. Another said it should be possible to prepare a world state of the environment report as seen from a sustainable development point of view.

7. One representative expressed concern about the usefulness of UNEP's state-of-the-environment reports, believing that they should have been more policy-oriented, with greater emphasis on regional and national approaches. Another representative said environmental information should be used; the production of information for its own sake was of little value. Two other representatives said they hoped that the report on poverty and the environment would be followed by action.

8. One representative, referring to the updated scientific report of the Executive Director on the environmental effects of the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait (UNEP/GC.17/Inf.9), said that it should have mentioned the long-term impact on Iraq's population. He proposed that the reference to the media in paragraph 50 should be preceded by the word "American" and that after the words "conflict between Iraq and Kuwait" the words "by the Allied forces" should be added and that the word "through" should be added after "IAEA", so that the text would become "the matter is now being investigated by UNEP in cooperation with WHO, IAEA and through the Governments concerned, in order to validate the media reports and, if appropriate, advise on suitable measures."

9. One representative said he agreed with the attention the Executive Director had given to the subject of poverty and the environment and suggested that the Governing Council request her to take note of the comments of Council members on document UNEP/GC.17/15 in drawing up the final version of the report. He agreed with most of the points made in document UNEP/GC.17/18, save for a few concerning the priority to be afforded to dealing with certain air pollutants. He appreciated the desire of the Executive Director to put future state-of-the-environment reporting on a new footing; in some of the early reports it had been difficult to discern the more important from the less important details.

10. The observer for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) said FAO was in broad agreement with the executive summary of the state-of-the-environment report 1992: "Poverty and the Environment" (UNEP/GC.17/15), but the situation was more complex than presented and there was a need for a more sociological and less technological approach, and for a distinction to be made between different poverty groups and the causes of their poverty.

11. Another representative said UNEP was the world's watchdog in monitoring the state of the environment and what little was done by countries to check negative developments in that regard.

12. One representative said that his Government was ready to assist UNEP in its environmental reporting activities, since it had been a leader in developing environmental indicators.

*Action by the Council*

13. The Governing Council then proceeded to consider and adopt, at its 10th meeting, a number of decisions on policy issues, namely, decisions 17/6 and 17/7. The text of these decisions is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and their process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II, paragraphs 20-24 above.

## CHAPTER V

## COORDINATION

1. At its 9th plenary meeting on 20 May 1993, the Council took up its consideration of agenda item 6 (Coordination). In its deliberations on the item, the Council had before it the following documentation: joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNEP/GC.17/4); the note by the Executive Director on the 1991 report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council at its 17th session (UNEP/GC.17/11); the note by the Executive Director on the 1992 report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to the UNEP Governing Council (UNEP/GC.17/12); the report of the Executive Director on arrangements for system-wide cooperation and coordination in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.17/12/Add.1); the note by the Executive Director on policy advice of the Governing Council of UNEP to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) on future reports of the ACC (UNEP/GC.17/12/Add.2); the draft decision submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on coordination within the United Nations system (UNEP/GC.17/L.5); and the memoranda of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other agencies of the United Nations system (UNEP/GC.17/Inf.2).

2. Introducing agenda item 6, the Executive Director explained the contents of the documents before the Council. Document UNEP/GC.17/4 (Joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), she said, dealt with the decision to bring UNEP and Habitat under common direction. Many human settlement issues had a very strong environmental component, and it was important to investigate the possibility of establishing a common administrative base for a number of the activities concerned.

3. The time had come, she continued, for increased attempts to establish meaningful coordination within the United Nations system. Agenda 21 had assigned the coordinating role to ACC, which she described as the "management committee" of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. She said she had informed the ACC of the establishment of an Inter-Agency Environment Coordination Group (IAEG), with an appropriate substructure, as a possible successor arrangement to the current Designated Officials for Environmental Matters (DOEM).

4. As for the system-wide medium-term environment programme (SWMTEP), she said she had been very satisfied with the response given by the Council at its current session. However, SWMTEP had in fact never been a real plan with impact on programmes; it had been, rather, an inventory of activities compiled after the fact. In her view, it was more important to deal with coordination activities than to become involved in another SWMTEP exercise.

5. With regard to the ACC reports for 1991 and 1992, she said that the Executive Director of UNEP would always require a great degree of communication and coordination with the heads of other agencies in the United Nations system. The problem with the DOEM arrangement had been that it had not attracted the attention of agency heads, and she was suggesting a twofold process involving a senior discussion mechanism at agency-head level.

6. As for the nature of future reports, she hoped to be able to report real progress in ensuring that they reflected better the vital importance of policy concerns. The initial response from most members of the

United Nations family had been very positive. Memoranda of understanding were of use to the organization only if they focused on long-lasting consultation and cooperation with other members of the United Nations family, and if they dealt in more specific terms with what could be delivered in reality. UNEP's memoranda of understanding would be reviewed in order to ensure that they were more results-oriented.

7. One representative endorsed the stress laid by the Executive Director on a results-oriented approach. He said that the Commission on Sustainable Development was particularly well-placed to assure the political cooperation of a strong ministerial presence at the Commission's meetings.

8. In response, the Executive Director said that she had been invited to present the Governing Council's views to the governing bodies of other United Nations agencies thereby ensuring that the political membership of those bodies was kept informed.

9. Another representative considered that SWMTEP's role as an internal coordination mechanism should be reassessed in line with the Commission on Sustainable Development's multi-year work programme. She added that coordination in capacity-building represented a major challenge for the United Nations in the future and, therefore, that all United Nations bodies should, on the one hand, integrate capacity-building into all their activities and, on the other, give support to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the lead agency in that area. Regarding the secretariats of environmental conventions, despite the diversity of their geographical locations, they should cooperate more closely and exchange information to a greater extent.

10. The representative of Mauritius, referring to paragraph 9 of document UNEP/GC.17/11, welcomed the establishment of an Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Development in the Asia and Pacific region and proposed that a similar body should be set up for Indian Ocean islands so as to avoid any possibility of duplication. He said that his country was prepared to act as an intermediary to ensure that an effective form of cooperation between the East African Regional Seas Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission was instituted.

11. The observer for the World Conservation Union (IUCN) said that SWMTEP constituted a useful programme even for organizations that were not part of the United Nations system. IUCN had on a number of occasions held discussions on the possibility of formulating a similar programme for non-governmental organizations in order to avoid duplication of funding.

12. The Executive Director, responding to the comments made, said that she was exploring with regional economic commissions the possibility of joint programming. With regard to capacity-building, she had discussed the issue with UNDP and had made a number of proposals regarding UNEP's role, which had been well received. In connection with coordination among the secretariats of environmental conventions, she said that the co-location of the secretariats for which UNEP was responsible in one building in Geneva would facilitate cooperation. The secretariats would also be asked to review the record of compliance with their respective conventions so that lessons could be learned for the future.

*Action by the Council*

13. The Governing Council then proceeded to consider and adopt, at its 10th meeting, a number of decisions on policy issues, namely, decisions 17/8 to 17/11. The text of these decisions is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and their process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II, paragraphs 25-32 above.

## CHAPTER VI

## PROGRAMME MATTERS, INCLUDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

1. As decided by the Council at the 1st meeting of the session (see chapter 1, para. 15 above), agenda item 7 was discussed in the Programme Committee. The Committee's report on its deliberations is reproduced as annex II to the present proceedings.

2. Having taken note of the report of the Committee at its 9th plenary meeting on 20 May, the Council at its 10th plenary meeting on 21 May adopted a number of decisions falling under this item (decisions 17/12 to 17/31). The text of the decisions is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and their process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II, paras 33 to 93 above.

## CHAPTER VII

## THE ENVIRONMENT FUND, OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS AND ADMINISTRATION

1. As decided by the Council at the 1st meeting of the session (see chapter 1, para. 15 above), agenda item 8 was discussed in the Fund Committee. The Committee's report on its deliberations is reproduced as annex III to the present proceedings.

2. Having taken note of the report of the Committee at its 9th plenary meeting on 20 May, the Council, at its 10th plenary meeting on 21 May adopted a number of decisions falling under this item (decisions 17/32 to 17/43). The text of the decisions is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and their process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II, paras 94 to 122 above.

## CHAPTER VIII

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA, DATE AND PLACE OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL

1. At its 9th plenary meeting on 20 May 1993, the Council took up its consideration of agenda item 9 (Provisional agenda, date and place of the eighteenth session of the Council). It had before it a proposal by the Bureau concerning the date and place of the eighteenth regular session of the Council, together with a draft provisional agenda for the session (UNEP/GC.17/L.24).

2. Following a proposal by one representative, the Council agreed that the subject: "environment and economics" should be included in the agenda of the eighteenth session. The proposal concerning the date and place of the session was adopted and the draft provisional agenda, as amended, was approved. The text of the decision is included in annex I to the present proceedings.

## CHAPTER IX

## OTHER BUSINESS

1. In reply to one representative who enquired whether a special session would be held in 1994, the Executive Director said that the United Nations General Assembly had approved the convening of a special session in 1994 if so required. The intention had been to review the System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Programme (SWMTEP) at a special session. However, since the Governing Council had decided (see decision 17/16 in annex I) that SWMTEP should not continue within the same time-frame, that special session would no longer be necessary. Nevertheless, according to rule 5, para. 2 (b) of the rules of procedure, the President of the Governing Council, with the concurrence of the other members of the Bureau and in consultation with the Executive Director, could convene a special session.

*Action by the Council*

2. The Governing Council proceeded to consider and adopt, at its 10th meeting, a decision paying tribute to the former Executive Director of UNEP, Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, decision 17/44. The text of the decision is included in annex I to the present proceedings, and its process of adoption, including any comments made at the time, is recorded in chapter II, paragraphs 123 and 124 above.

## CHAPTER X

## ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

1. The present proceedings were adopted at the 10th plenary meeting of the session, on 21 May 1993, on the basis of the draft proceedings circulated as document UNEP/GC.17/L.8 and Adds 1-5.

2. At the same meeting, the Council also took note of the reports of the Programme Committee and the Fund Committee, which are reproduced in annex II and annnex III to the present proceedings.

## CHAPTER XI

## CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

1. At the 10th meeting of the session, on 21 May 1993, after the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the seventeenth session of the Council closed.

*Annex I*

## DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION


| *Decision No.* | *Title* | *Date of adoption* | *Page* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17/1 | Cooperation and linkages between the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations bodies | 21 May 1993 | 1 |
| 17/2 | Additional proposed follow-up actions to resolutions adopted by the General Assembly related to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development | 21 May 1993 | 2 |
| 17/3 | Annual Reports of the Executive Director | 21 May 1993 | 2 |
| 17/4 | The United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development | 21 May 1993 | 3 |
| 17/5 | Application of environmental norms by military establishments | 21 May 1993 | 4 |
| 17/6 | State-of-the-environment reports | 21 May 1993 | 4 |
| 17/7 | The environmental effects of the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait | 21 May 1993 | 5 |
| 17/8 | Memoranda of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system | 21 May 1993 | 6 |
| 17/9 | The 1991 and 1992 reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination | 21 May 1993 | 7 |
| 17/10 | Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) | 21 May 1993 | 7 |
| 17/11 | Future reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council | 21 May 1993 | 8 |
| 17/12 | International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment | 21 May 1993 | 9 |
| 17/13 | Carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea | 21 May 1993 | 10 |
| 17/14 | Control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal | 21 May 1993 | 10 |
| 17/15 | Proposals for an update of the list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance | 21 May 1993 | 11 |
| 17/16 | Implementation and mid-term review of the United Nations system-wide medium-term environment programme for 1990-1995 | 21 May 1993 | 11 |

| *Decision No.* | *Title* | *Date of adoption* | *Page* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17/17 | Transfer of environmentally sound technology | 21 May 1993 | 12 |
| 17/18 | Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes | 21 May 1993 | 12 |
| 17/19 | Desertification | | |
| | A. Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in 1991-1992 | 21 May 1993 | 14 |
| | B. Financing and other measures in support of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification | 21 May 1993 | 15 |
| | C. Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification | 21 May 1993 | 16 |
| 17/20 | Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities | 21 May 1993 | 17 |
| 17/21 | International environmental technology centres | 21 May 1993 | 21 |
| 17/22 | Environmental indicators | 21 May 1993 | 21 |
| 17/23 | Urgent measures for the conservation of the African elephant and African and Asian populations of the rhinoceros | 21 May 1993 | 22 |
| 17/24 | Climate | | |
| | A. Report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change | 21 May 1993 | 23 |
| | B. Progress and future activities of the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme | 21 May 1993 | 24 |
| | C. Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme | 21 May 1993 | 25 |
| 17/25 | Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law | 21 May 1993 | 25 |
| 17/26 | The United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance | 21 May 1993 | 40 |
| 17/27 | Action for countries with economies in transition | 21 May 1993 | 41 |
| 17/28 | The United Nations Environment Programme and the strengthening of the regional offices | 21 May 1993 | 42 |
| 17/29 | Intergovernmental forum on chemical risk assessment and management | 21 May 1993 | 43 |
| 17/30 | Convention on Biological Diversity | 21 May 1993 | 44 |

| Decision No. | Title | Date of adoption | Page |
|---|---|---|---|
| 17/31 | The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab Territories | 21 May 1993 | 44 |
| 17/32 | The Environment Fund: use of resources in 1992-1993 and proposed use of projected resources in 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 | 21 May 1993 | 45 |
| 17/33 | Programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1992-1993 and proposed budget for the biennium 1994-1995 | 21 May 1993 | 47 |
| 17/34 | On-site interpretation facilities at Gigiri, Nairobi | 21 May 1993 | 49 |
| 17/35 | Periodicity and duration of sessions of the Governing Council | 21 May 1993 | 49 |
| 17/36 | Provision of language facilities for the committee of Permanent Representatives | 21 May 1993 | 50 |
| 17/37 | Reduction of Governing Council documentation | 21 May 1993 | 50 |
| 17/38 | Improvement of facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi | 21 May 1993 | 51 |
| 17/39 | Management of trust funds and counterpart contributions | 21 May 1993 | 52 |
| 17/40 | The Global Environment Facility | 21 May 1993 | 56 |
| 17/41 | Financial management and structure of the United Nations Environment Programme, including presentation of financial information and the budget of the United Nations Environment Programme | 21 May 1993 | 57 |
| 17/42 | Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on proposals for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations Environment Programme in fulfilling its mandate | 21 May 1993 | 58 |
| 17/43 | Development of the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives | 21 May 1993 | 59 |
| 17/44 | Tribute to Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, the former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme | 21 May 1993 | 59 |
| | *Other decision* | | |
| | Provisional agenda, date and place of the eighteenth session of the Governing Council | 20 May 1993 | 60 |

17/1. *Cooperation and linkages between the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations bodies*

*The Governing Council,*

*Noting* the reaffirmation of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the general direction of the efforts pursued in the Environment Programme,[1]

*Noting also* the call by the Conference for even greater efforts at coordination of environment and development activities in the United Nations system,[1]

*Noting further* the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development of the Economic and Social Council,[2]

*Noting particularly* the need for the United Nations Environment Programme to help ensure the success of the Commission on Sustainable Development in monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21[3] and other decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to take into account the results of the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and to carry out the programmatic activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in full coordination with the outcome of that session;

2. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue to take the steps necessary, within available resources, to refocus the Programme's office at United Nations Headquarters, as well as its Regional Office for Europe, and its Nairobi headquarters, so that they will be able to collaborate fully, within their mandates, with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in the context of the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to ensure that adequate staff resources are available, through secondment or other appropriate means, to support the Programme's collaboration with the ongoing process of negotiations on restructuring the Global Environment Facility and with the newly restructured Global Environment Facility, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other relevant United Nations organs, bodies and programmes.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

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[1] *See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), vol. I, resolution 1, annex II, chapter 38.

[2] See Economic and Social Council decision 1993/207 of 12 February 1993.

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), vol. I, resolution 1, annex II.

17/2. *Additional proposed follow-up actions to resolutions adopted by the General Assembly related to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development*

*The Governing Council,*

*Having considered* the note by the Executive Director on additional proposed follow-up actions to resolutions related to the Conference on Environment and Development adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Executive Director;

2. *Endorses* the actions proposed by the Executive Director relating to the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the international convention to combat desertification.[5]

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/3. *Annual Reports of the Executive Director*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* paragraph 1 of its decision 16/5 of 31 May 1991, on the rationalization of Governing Council documentation,

*Having considered* the executive summary of the 1991 Annual Report of the Executive Director[6] and the executive summary of the 1992 Annual Report of the Executive Director,[7]

*Takes note with appreciation* of the executive summaries of the 1991 Annual Report of the Executive Director and the 1992 Annual Report of the Executive Director.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

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[4] UNEP/GC.17/20.

[5] *Ibid.*, paras. 3-7.

[6] UNEP/GC.17/2.

[7] UNEP/GC.17/22.

17/4. *The United Nations Environment Programme and the role of women in environment and development*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* principle 20 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[8] which holds that women have a vital role in environmental management and development and that their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development,

*Recognizing* that the international community has endorsed several plans of action for the full, equal and beneficial integration of women in all environment and development activities, in particular the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[9] which emphasized women's participation in national and international ecosystem management and control of environment degradation,

*Also recognizing* that several conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women[10] and conventions of the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, have been adopted to end gender-based discrimination and ensure women access to land and other resources, education, and safe and equal employment,

*Emphasizing* the objectives and calls for immediate action in chapter 24 of Agenda 21,[5] entitled "Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development",

*Recalling in particular* the request in paragraph 24.10 of Agenda 21 for each body of the United Nations system to review the number of women in senior policy-level and decision-making posts and, where appropriate, adopt programmes to increase that number, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/17 of 31 May 1991 on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat,

1. *Urges* Governments to involve women fully in every aspect and at all levels of decision-making in the national follow-up of Agenda 21;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) To ensure that gender considerations are well integrated into all policies, programmes and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme;

(b) To establish specific targets for an increase in the number of women employed within the existing staff positions in the Programme at all Professional levels, both at headquarters and in the field;

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), vol. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[9] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap I, sect. A.

[10] General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, annex.

(c) To intensify and expand coordination and cooperation between the Programme and other multilateral organizations in the area of training in gender issues and sustainable development;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to prepare concrete proposals for the integration of women and environment into the process of sustainable development as the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in 1995;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Director to enhance the cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in integrating women in comprehensive programmes for sustainable development;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Council at its eighteenth regular session.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/5. *Application of environmental norms by military establishments*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* that Governments should, in accordance with paragraph 20.22 (h) of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,[3] ascertain that their military establishments conform to their nationally applicable environmental norms in the treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes,

*Noting* the role of the military sector in the promotion of national environmental goals and objectives in the transition to sustainable development,

*Recognizing* the need for early action,

1. *Encourages* Governments to establish a national environmental policy for the military sector;

2. *Invites* the Executive Director to collect information on:

(a) National preparations and activities in order to ascertain that their military establishments conform to their national environmental norms in the treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes;

(b) The contribution of the military sector in the achievement of national environmental policies;

(c) Assessments of the damage as well as the need for and feasibility of the clean-up and restoration of areas where damage to the environment has been caused by military activities;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its eighteenth regular session on the issues referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/6. *State-of-the-environment reports*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* paragraph 1 of its decision 16/5 of 31 May 1991, on the rationalization of Governing Council documentation,

*Further recalling* its decisions 15/13 A of 23 May 1989 and 16/15 C of 31 May 1991, which concerned the annual state-of-the-environment reports for 1992 and 1993,

*Recalling also* its decision 16/16 of 31 May 1991 on emerging environmental issues,

*Having considered* the executive summaries of the 1992 state-of-the-environment report, "Poverty and the environment"[11] and of the comprehensive state-of-the-environment report,[12]

*Having considered also* the report of the Executive Director on emerging environmental issues,[13]

*Taking into consideration* the note by the Executive Director on future state-of-the-environment reporting,[14] which outlines possible ways of improving the documentation provided to the Council in order for it to exercise its role of keeping under review the world environmental situation conferred on it by the General Assembly in resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972,

1. *Takes note* of the executive summaries of the annual state-of-the-environment reports for 1992 and 1993 and of the Executive Director's comprehensive statement at the Council's 3rd plenary meeting of its seventeenth session, on 17 May 1993;[15]

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Executive Director on emerging environmental issues;

3. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue to examine ways of improving the documentation to be provided to the Council for it to fully exercise its function of ensuring that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance and relating to sustainable development receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

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11 UNEP/GC.17/15.

12 UNEP/GC.17/9.

13 UNEP/GC.17/18.

14 UNEP/GC.17/Inf.11.

15 UNEP/GC.17/28/Add.2 and Corr.1 (Arabic only).

17/7. *The environmental effects of the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 47/151 of 18 December 1992 and taking into consideration Governing Council decisions SS.II/8 of 3 August 1990, SS.III/3, section II, of 5 February 1992 and 16/11 A and 16/17 of 31 May 1991,

*Noting* that the updated report on the environmental effects of the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait[16] is not satisfactory and does not fully reflect the real devastation and damages to the environment in the region,

*Recognizing* that proper assessment of the long-term impacts of the burnt oil wells and the massive oil spill on different environmental aspects as well as the public health of the region covered by the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment will require further detailed investigations,

*Requests* the Executive Director to continue with the Programme's leading role in coordinating the efforts of the United Nations as well as other international organizations to fully assess the environmental situation, to support programmes of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment on this issue and to mobilize funds needed for different assessment and rehabilitation programmes.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/8. *Memoranda of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* section III of its decision 82 (V) of 25 May 1977 on programme policy and implementation and, in particular, paragraph 5 thereof, in which it requested the Executive Director to submit agreed memoranda of understanding on joint programming between the Programme and other agencies of the United Nations system to the Governing Council for information and comment,

*Conscious* of the need to reduce documentation submitted by the Executive Director to the Governing Council,

*Noting* the detailed information contained in the information document on memoranda of understanding submitted to the Council by the Executive Director,[17]

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to discontinue the practice of submitting to the Council detailed information on memoranda of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and other organizations of the United Nations system but to submit a summary list of all such memoranda to future regular sessions of the Council;

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16 UNEP/GC.17/Inf.9.

17 UNEP/GC.17/Inf.2.

2. *Further requests* the Executive Director to forward the full text of all such memoranda of understanding immediately after their conclusion to Governments and to the Committee of Permanent Representatives for information and record purposes.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/9. *The 1991 and 1992 reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system,

*Also recalling* its decisions 14/2 and 14/4 of 18 June 1987 in which it requested the Administrative Committee on Coordination to continue to report to the Council on an annual basis,

*Noting* the emphasis put on the role of cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on sustainable development, which was underlined by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

*Having considered* the 1991 and 1992 reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council regarding United Nations system-wide coordination in the field of the environment,[18]

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Administrative Committee on Coordination for its 1991 and 1992 reports;

2. *Welcomes* the new machinery developed by the Administrative Committee on Coordination for the system-wide follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in particular the creation of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development;

3. *Takes note* of the outline proposed by the Executive Director for new arrangements for coordination in the field of the environment;[19]

4. *Endorses* the course of action outlined in order to enable the Executive Director to discharge effectively the coordinating role required of the United Nations Environment Programme by various legislative authorities.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

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[18] UNEP/GC.17/11 and UNEP/GC.17/12.

[19] UNEP/GC.17/12/Add.1, para. 6.

17/10. *Cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 14/3 of 18 June 1987, in which it requested the Executive Director to continue and increase cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), *inter alia*, in the four areas identified by the seventh joint meeting of the Executive Director of the Programme and the Bureau of its Governing Council with the Executive Director of the Centre and the Bureau of the Commission on Human Settlements,[20]

*Recalling also* its decision 16/21 of 31 May 1991 on cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat),

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 40/199 of 17 December 1985 on cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Having considered* the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)[21] and the proposals of the Executive Director for improved cooperation between the two organizations as outlined in her statement to the Council at the 3rd plenary meeting of its seventeenth session on 17 May 1993,[22]

*Noting* the need for further cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in implementing the relevant parts of Agenda 21,[3]

1. *Welcomes* the continued cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the four established areas and within the system-wide effort of the United Nations;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue her efforts to increase cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in, *inter alia*, the areas referred to in her statement to the Council, and in the implementation of the relevant parts of Agenda 21, and to report on the results of such cooperation to the Governing Council at its eighteenth regular session.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

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20 See UNEP/GC.13/6, para. 18.

21 UNEP/GC.17/4.

22 See the proceedings of the Governing Council at its seventeenth session (UNEP/GC.17/32), chapter III, para. 5.

17/11. *Future reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decisions 14/2 and 14/4 of 18 June 1987, in which it requested the Administrative Committee on Coordination to continue to report to the Council on an annual basis,

*Having taken note* of the invitation from the Committee for the Council to re-examine its decisions 14/2 and 14/4 and to reassess the focus of future reporting,[23]

*Bearing in mind* the reaffirmation by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development of the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the principal body within the United Nations in the field of the environment[24] and its statement that the Governing Council should continue to play its role with regard to policy guidance and coordination in the field of the environment, taking into account the development perspective,[25]

*Also bearing in mind* the valuable cooperation that it has received from the Committee since the Committee was assigned the functions of the Environmental Coordination Board by General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977,

*Having considered* the note by the Executive Director on policy advice of the Governing Council to the Administrative Committee on Coordination on future reports of the Committee,[26]

1. *Emphasizes* that the Administrative Committee on Coordination, as the central coordinating body for sustainable development and environment in the United Nations system, can play a significant role in assisting the Governing Council to address system-wide cooperation and coordination for the environment, taking into account the development perspective;

2. *Requests* the Administrative Committee on Coordination in future to report only in those years when the Governing Council meets in regular session;

3. *Also requests* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to focus future reports to the Governing Council on policy matters, taking into account policy issues being addressed in other intergovernmental forums of relevance to the Council, and to address those policy issues that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development identified for the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular those regarding system-wide coordination and emerging and important environmental issues of system-wide interest;

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[23] UNEP/GC.17/12, para. 4.

[24] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), vol. I, resolution 1, annex II, para. 38.23.

[25] *Ibid.*, para. 38.21.

[26] UNEP/GC.17/12/Add.2.

4. *Requests* the Administrative Committee on Coordination to assist in harmonizing the Governing Council's decision-making process with that of other intergovernmental forums, *inter alia*, through the regular reports of the Committee to the Council.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/12. *International conventions and protocols in the field of the environment*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 24 (III) of 30 April 1975 and General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX) of 9 December 1975,

*Noting with appreciation* the services of the Governments and intergovernmental organizations that are depositaries of various international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment;[27]

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to transmit the report on its behalf together with the comments of the Governing Council thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3436 (XXX);

3. *Calls on* Governments that have not yet done so to sign, ratify or accede to those international conventions in the field of the environment to which they are eligible to become parties.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/13. *Carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea*

*The Governing Council,*

*Concerned* about the potential hazards of the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea,

*Welcoming* the Executive Director's initiative to involve the United Nations Environment Programme with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Maritime Organization in the preparation of future policies on the matter,[28]

*Aware of* the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme, at the secretariat level, in the two meetings of the Joint International Atomic Energy Agency/International Maritime Organization Working Group on the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel by sea held in London from 8 to 11 December 1992 and in Vienna from 26 to 30 April 1993,

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27 UNEP/GC.17/10 and Corr.1 and 2.

28 See UNEP/GC.17/5 and Corr.1, part II, section C.

1. *Takes note* that the Joint Working Group completed its work on the draft Code for the Safe Carriage of Irradiated Nuclear Fuel, Plutonium, and High-Level Radioactive Wastes in Flasks on Board Ships;[29]

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on future developments resulting from the work of the Joint Working Group to the Governing Council at its next session.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/14. *Control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 16/30 A of 31 May 1991 by which it, *inter alia*, urged Governments that had not yet acceded to or ratified the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, to do so, as soon as possible,

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on the Basel Convention,[30]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the Basel Convention;

2. *Urges* all Governments, that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Basel Convention to do so as soon as possible;

3. *Appeals to* Governments, parties and non-parties to the Basel Convention, that have still not paid their contributions for 1993 to the Trust Fund for the Basel Convention and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, to do so as a matter of highest priority so as to enable the Convention Secretariat to implement the decisions adopted at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the relevant parts of Agenda 21;[3]

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to examine the implementation of the Basel Convention to date and, in particular, the issues, if any, that have resulted in the slow ratification of the Convention.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/15. *Proposals for an update of the list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 16/31 of 31 May 1991 and, in particular, paragraph 2 (d) thereof,

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[29] Report from the second session of the Joint IAEA/IMO/UNEP Working Group on the Safe Carriage of Irradiated Nuclear Fuel by Sea (IAEA/WP.34/Rev.1), annex 8.

[30] See UNEP/GC.17/5 and Corr.1, in particular paras. 10-12.

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on proposals for an update of the list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance,[31]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director, in particular the recommendations made on proposals to update the list;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to follow up on these recommendations by:

(a) Replacing the list by an assessment, every four years, of chemical issues that are critical at the global level;

(b) Initiating work on preparation of the different documents as indicated;

(c) Incorporating a summary of major issues related to chemicals emanating from the above assessment work into the newly proposed Executive Director's statement on the environment, as appropriate.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/16. *Implementation and mid-term review of the United Nations system-wide medium-term environment programme for 1990-1995*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decisions SS.I/3 of 18 March 1988 and 15/21 of 25 May 1989, on the United Nations system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995,

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on implementation and mid-term review of the United Nations system-wide medium-term environment programme for 1990-1995,[32]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director;

2. *Endorses* the Executive Director's recommendation to assess the future arrangements for meeting the need for a strategy and planning document, in view of the new United Nations system-wide coordination arrangements being established;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Council at its regular session in 1995 on the need for a United Nations system-wide strategy and planning document in the field of the environment.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

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31 UNEP/GC.17/24.

32 UNEP/GC.17/6.

17/17. *Transfer of environmentally sound technology*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 16/33 of 31 May 1991 on transfer of environmentally sound industrial production technology,

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on transfer of environmentally sound technology,[33]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director;

2. *Notes* the progress made by the cleaner production programme in promoting the transfer of environmentally sound technologies;

3. *Notes*, however, that environmentally damaging technologies continue to be exported, in particular to developing countries;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to examine the feasibility of developing international guidelines on what information on potential environmental impacts the exporters of technology should provide to importers;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to include a report on the results of the examination of the issue referred to in paragraph 4 of the present decision in her report on the cleaner production programme to the Governing Council at its eighteenth regular session.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/18. *Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* paragraph 1 of its decision 16/30 A of 31 May 1991, in which it requested the Executive Director to prepare through the Interim Secretariat for the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and in cooperation with other international and intergovernmental organizations, draft elements of an international strategy and an action programme, including technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, and to convene an ad hoc meeting of Government-designated experts to consider draft elements and a possible international strategy and an action programme,

*Also recalling* resolution 8 of 22 March 1989 adopted by the Basel Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Global Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes, by which the Conference called upon the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish a technical working group to prepare draft technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes,

*Taking note* of the fact that the elements of an international strategy for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes contained in the report of the ad hoc meeting of Government-designated

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[33] UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.3, part II.

experts[34] are being made available to Governments to serve as guidance for the elaboration of national strategies for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes,

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes,[35]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes;

2. *Invites* Governments to use the elements of the international strategy prepared by the ad hoc meeting of Government-designated experts while preparing, consolidating or revising national strategies for environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes;

3. *Invites also* relevant international and intergovernmental organizations to use, as appropriate, the elements of the international strategy their programmes and activities concerning or related to environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes;

4. *Urges* developed and other countries in a position to do so to assist developing and other countries or countries in transition to a market economy that express a need for assistance in technology transfer to minimize the generation of hazardous wastes;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to promote the use of the elements of the international strategy through the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

## 17/19. *Desertification*

### A. *Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in 1991-1992*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 32/169 and 32/172 of 19 December 1977, 33/89 of 15 December 1978, 34/184 of 18 December 1979, 35/73 of 5 December 1980, 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/147 of 17 December 1982, 37/218 of 20 December 1982, 38/160 of 9 December 1983, 39/168 A of 17 December 1984, 40/198 A of 17 December 1985, S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, 42/189 A of 11 December 1987, 44/172 of 19 December 1989, 45/212 of 21 December 1990, 46/161 of 19 December 1991, and 47/190 and 47/191 of 22 December 1992,

*Recalling in particular* General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 by which the General Assembly decided to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, and without prejudging the potential impact of the results of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the United Nations Environment Programme's programme in the field of combating desertification,

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[34] UNEP/CHW/WG.2/1/3.

[35] UNEP/GC.17/5 and Corr.1, paras. 13-16.

*Recalling also* its decisions 9/22 A and B of 26 May 1981, section VII of its decision 10/14 of 31 May 1982, section VII of its decision 11/7 of 24 May 1983, and its decisions 12/10 of 28 May 1984, 14/15 A of 18 June 1987, 15/23 A of 25 May 1989, 16/22 A of 31 May 1991 and its decision SS.III/1 of 5 February 1992,

*Considering* the report of the Executive Director on the implementation in 1991-1992 of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,[36]

*Also considering* those parts of the 1991[37] and 1992[38] reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination dealing with the coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification,

*Aware of* chapter 12 ("Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought"), and 38 ("International institutional arrangements") of Agenda 21,[3] as endorsed by General Assembly,[39]

*Reaffirming* its conviction that the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification is one appropriate instrument to assist Governments in developing national programmes for arresting the process of desertification, and that it has contributed essential elements to chapter 12 of Agenda 21,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in 1991 and 1992, and of the compatibility of the action taken with the recommendations of chapter 12 of Agenda 21;

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to submit the report, on behalf of the Governing Council, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

3. *Encourages* the ongoing efforts by the United Nations Environment Programme to define appropriate methodologies for monitoring and assessment of desertification, to carry out mapping of thematic indicators of desertification and to assign benchmarks and progress indicators for desertification control, along with other indicators of global changes within the system-wide Earthwatch programme;

4. *Requests* the Programme to provide the information gathered as a result of the efforts referred to paragraph 3 of the present decision to the Governments of the countries from which it has been collected;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to compile, disseminate and catalyse the further development of successful desertification control project designs and implementation methodologies, including model land-use and socio-economic development programmes for marginal drylands and use of food aid in drought relief and refugee rehabilitation programmes;

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36 UNEP/GC.17/14.

37 UNEP/GC.17/11.

38 UNEP/GC.17/12.

39 Resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, para. 2.

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to promote international cooperation and to intensify and expand, within the existing resources, the United Nations Environment Programme's regional/subregional joint ventures for implementation of a coordinated Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, as recommended in chapter 12 of Agenda 21, especially in regional/national capacity building, training, research, methodology and technology development and dissemination, as well as in formulation and implementation of national plans of action to combat desertification;

7. *Calls upon* all the other United Nations agencies and organizations concerned to reinforce their involvement in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to cooperate fully, within existing resources, in the preparations for the desertification convention by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, *inter alia*, by making available the scientific and technical resources of the secretariat.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

B. *Financing and other measures in support of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 34/184 of 18 December 1979, 36/191 of 17 December 1981, 37/220 of 20 December 1982, 42/189 C of 11 December 1987, 44/172 A of 19 December 1989 and 46/161 of 19 December 1991,

*Recalling also* its decisions 13/30 A of 23 May 1985, 14/15 D of 18 June 1987, 15/23 B of 25 May 1989 and 16/22 B of 31 May 1991,

*Noting* the discontinuation of the global financing mechanisms of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, namely, the Special Account and the Consultative Group on Desertification,

1. *Takes note* of the decision by the participants in the Global Environment Facility, in the ongoing process of restructuring the Facility, that activities on land degradation, in so far as they relate to the programme areas of the Facility, are eligible for funding from it;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to intensify the United Nations Environment Programme interaction with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank on this issue;

3. *Invites* other international financial institutions and Governments to actively support practical measures aimed at implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and the provisions in chapter 12 of Agenda 21;[3]

4. *Invites also* the regional financial institutions to actively support practical measures aimed at implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and the provisions in chapter 12 of Agenda 21.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

C. *Implementation in the Sudano-Sahelian region of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 32/170 of 19 December 1977, 33/88 of 15 December 1978, 34/187 of 18 December 1979, 35/72 of 5 December 1980, 36/190 of 17 December 1981, 37/216 of 20 December 1982, 38/164 of 19 December 1983, 39/168 B and 39/206 of 17 December 1984, 40/198 B of 17 December 1985, S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, 42/189 B of 11 December 1987, 44/172 B of 19 December 1989 and 46/161 of 19 December 1991,

*Recalling* also its decisions 13/30 B of 23 May 1985, 14/15 B of 18 June 1987, 15/23 B of 25 May 1989 and 16/22 C of 31 May 1991,

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in 1991-1992 and, in particular, the section on the implementation of this Plan in the Sudano-Sahelian region,[40]

1. *Takes note* of the steps the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office has taken, on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme, to implement the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the twenty-two countries of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to continue supporting the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office as a joint venture with the United Nations Development Programme, at least until the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the development of a desertification convention become clear;

3. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director to request the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to continue its activities at the national and local level to assist Governments in the region in developing and implementing national plans of action to combat desertification and to coordinate with other agencies involved in development and implementation of national strategies for sustainable development;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to amend the terms of reference (the Memorandum of Understanding) of the joint undertaking of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme to allow the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to intensify its involvement in the desertification control efforts in the countries in the region with its subregional interface organizations;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director in consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in response to chapter 38 of Agenda 21[3] and subject to the outcome of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the development of a desertification convention, to consider strengthening their efforts to establish joint support mechanisms for the implementation of chapter 12 of Agenda 21 in other regions/subregions affected by desertification, capitalizing on the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Environment Programme/World Bank tripartite experience of the Global Environment Facility and fully coordinating their efforts with the United Nations regional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies on development and financing in the regions concerned;

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[40] UNEP/GC.17/14, section V.

6. *Invites* the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to intensify its efforts to mobilize resources for continued assistance to its mandated countries combating desertification.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/20. *Protection of the marine environment from land-based activities*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recognizing* that land-based activities and land-based sources of marine pollution, in particular sewage, are a major cause of the degradation of the marine environment, as well as an important element of the integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas,

*Fully recognizing* the importance of the global conference on integrated coastal zone management and development and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States with regard to the protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas,

*Having noted* the invitation by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in paragraph 17.26 of Agenda 21[3] for the United Nations Environment Programme to convene, as soon as practicable, an intergovernmental meeting on protection of the marine environment from land-based activities,

*Having considered* the Executive Director's report on protection of the marine environment from land-based activities,[41]

1. *Takes note* of the Executive Director's report;

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, taking into account General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992. Consistent with the recommendations outlined in chapter 17 of Agenda 21, the Governing Council believes that this item is one of the important areas of follow-up to the Conference and that the Executive Director should coordinate a process preparing for the intergovernmental meeting on protection of the marine environment from land-based activities to be held in 1995. The preparatory process should take into account the experiences of regional and subregional agreements and:

(a) Identify approaches for addressing land-based activities that can be tailored to particular economic and/or geographic circumstances;

(b) Identify areas requiring, as well as opportunities for, international cooperation on the bilateral, regional, and global level; and

(c) Identify criteria for development assistance and technical assistance projects, including sewage-related projects, for the purpose of mobilizing resources from individual countries, multilateral organizations or international financial institutions to address the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities;

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[41] UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.3, paras. 1-7.

3. *Decides* that, to adequately prepare for the final intergovernmental meeting in 1995, the Executive Director shall organize a structured and sequenced preparatory process to include:

(a) A preliminary meeting of experts to assess the effectiveness of selected regional agreements to be held in Geneva or Nairobi in late 1993;

(b) A one-week meeting of government-designated experts focusing on the 1985 Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution[42] to be hosted by the Government of Canada in June 1994, to discuss possible amendments to the 1985 Montreal Guidelines as well as outline what additional areas of international cooperation are appropriate for further discussion;

(c) A final preparatory meeting of government-designated experts in March 1995 at a location to be determined to review and revise the draft of a programme of action prepared during the inter-sessional period;

(d) A two-week intergovernmental conference for the purpose of adopting a programme of action to be hosted by the Government of the United States in late 1995. This conference will be held in Washington, D.C., conducted in all six official United Nations languages, and will seek agreement on a programme of action, and identify the means of implementation, as appropriate.

The meetings of government-designated experts scheduled for 1994 and 1995 will be conducted in English, French and Spanish. The participation of interested international organizations and non-governmental organizations at the intergovernmental conference and preparatory meetings is strongly encouraged;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to cooperate closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Habitat, the International Maritime Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and other relevant international organizations in the preparations for the intergovernmental meetings outlined above;

5. *Encourages* regional conventions and programmes for the protection of the marine environment, including the regional seas programmes of the United Nations, to contribute recommendations to a proposed programme of action prior to the final preparatory meeting in March 1995;

6. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to programme funds as outlined in the annex to this decision. Expenditures for actions planned in 1993 will be financed through available programme resources for 1992-1993 and expenditures for actions during 1994-1995 are provided within the core 1 programme of Fund activities.[43] Additional resources, where necessary, will be provided from the Fund programme reserve and other financing offered by the Governments of Canada and the United States to cover the cost of meeting services;[44]

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[42] *See Environmental Law Guidelines and Principles No.7* (United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, 1985).

[43] See UNEP/GC.17/7 and Corr.1, activity 7.1.4 (a).

[44] $522,900 shall be earmarked from the Fund programme reserve to cover 1994-1995 expenditures detailed in the workplan outlined in the annex to this decision.

7. *Urges* Governments to contribute additional resources to support the participation of developing countries in the planned intergovernmental conference in 1995 as well as the two meetings of experts scheduled for late 1994 and early 1995. In addition, Governments are urged to offer facilities to host the second meeting of experts planned for March 1995.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

Annex

SUGGESTED WORKPLAN, TIMETABLE AND BUDGET

| | Activity | Date | Cost estimate (United States dollars) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Preliminary meeting of experts to assess effectiveness of regional agreements (Geneva or Nairobi) | October | 340,000 a/ |
| 2. | Three regional surveys on land-based sources of pollution | April 1993 - June 1994 | 301,600 a/ |
| 3. | Meeting of experts on control of marine pollution from land-based sources focusing on possible amendments to the 1985 Montreal Guidelines (5-day meeting in Montreal - English, French and Spanish) including servicing of the meeting | June 1994 | |
| | Cost of conference-servicing | | 100,000 |
| | Cost of support to participants from developing countries (30) | | 199,400 |
| 4. | Drafting of programme of action | June - Nov. 1994 | UNEP and interested Governments to fund the undertaking |
| 5. | Meeting of experts on protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (5-day meeting in Geneva or another location - English, French and Spanish), including servicing of the meeting | March 1995 | 150,000 |
| | Cost of support to participants from developing countries (30) | | 230,000 |
| 6. | Regional seas contributions | Sept. - Oct. 1994 | 143,500 |
| 7. | Intergovernmental meeting on protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (10-day meeting in Washington, D.C.) including servicing of the meeting in six languages and travel of participants from developing countries (80) | Nov. 1995 | |
| | Cost of conference-servicing | | 300,000 b/ |
| | Cost of support to participants from developing countries | | 600,000 |
| | **Grand total (including 1993 dollars)** | | 2,364,500 |
| | **Total 1994-1995 dollars** | | 1,722,900 |

a/ 1993 programme funds (already committed).

b/ Additional costs of holding the meeting in the United States of America for 10 days will be covered by the United States.

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17/21. *International environmental technology centres*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 16/34 of 31 May 1991, in which it, *inter alia*, requested the Executive Director to explore the possibility of establishing international environmental technology centres, in equal numbers in developed and developing countries,

*Recalling* also its decision 16/33 of 31 May 1991, in which it, *inter alia*, calls upon the Executive Director to promote the identification of ways and means to facilitate access by and transfer of technology to developing countries in respect of cleaner production methods, techniques and technologies,

*Further recalling* the Agenda 21 programme of action as adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,[3] particularly its chapter 34,

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on the question of establishing international environmental technology centres in countries other than Japan,[45]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director;

2. *Takes note also* of the proposal submitted by Tunisia;[46]

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the existing links between the United Nations Environment Programme and relevant centres of excellence;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to accord high priority and keep under review the establishment of technology centres and to report to the Council, at its eighteenth regular session, on new developments in this respect, taking into account the views expressed and proposals made during its seventeenth session.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/22. *Environmental indicators*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* the understanding reached with the Executive Director at the third special session of the Council in February 1992 that he would explore possible action by the United Nations Environment Programme in the area of environmental indicators and report back thereon to the Council at its seventeenth session,[47]

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on environmental indicators,[48]

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[45] UNEP/GC.17/5 and Corr.1, paras. 1-9.

[46] UNEP/GC.17/PC/L.3.

[47] See UNEP/GCSS.III/6 and Corr.1, para. 120.

[48] UNEP.GC.17/5/Add.2, part II.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director;

2. *Recognizes* that the subject of environmental indicators is a cross-cutting issue;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue its work in this field in cooperation with the United Nations Statistical Office and the relevant specialized agencies, bearing in mind the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Council at its eighteenth regular session a progress report, including a plan of action, on the development and use of environmental indicators.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/23. *Urgent measures for the conservation of the African elephant and African and Asian populations of the rhinoceros*

*The Governing Council,*

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on urgent measures for the conservation of the African elephant and African and Asian populations of the rhinoceros,[49]

I. *Conservation of the African elephant*

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the work accomplished by the United Nations Environment Programme in convening and organizing its conference between the African Elephant Range States and Donors on Financing of the Conservation of the African Elephant and in assisting African Governments in the development of effective conservation policies/programmes, conservation strategies and country elephant conservation action plans to improve the conservation of the African elephant and its ecosystems, as well as in acting as a broker between donors and range States to provide funds to finance improved conservation of the African elephant as a key species in African ecosystems in the context of overall land-use patterns;

2. *Calls upon* African elephant range States to implement their country elephant conservation action plans across the species' range and urges donors in a position to do so to assist in this urgent conservation task, including through support to the coordination facility referred to in paragraph 4(b) of the present section;

3. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and non-governmental organizations to support the implementation of the country elephant conservation action plans and the establishment of a coordinating body for African elephant conservation through financial contributions and technical assistance;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to:

(a) Strengthen the coordination of elephant conservation in Africa by assisting collaborative approaches to elephant conservation;

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[49] UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.4, part II.

(b) Establish an African elephant conservation facility within the United Nations Environment Programme, allocate the necessary funds for the initial operation of the Facility and seek additional voluntary contributions from those in a position to make them to facilitate the long-term viability of the facility;

II. *Conservation of African and Asian populations of the rhinoceros*

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the work accomplished by the United Nations Environment Programme in preparing for its conference between the rhinoceros range States, consumer States and donors on financing the conservation of the rhinoceros, scheduled to take place at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi in June 1993, and in catalysing African and Asian Governments to develop priority projects and/or country rhinoceros conservation action plans to improve the conservation of the African and Asian rhinoceroses and their ecosystems, as well as in acting as a broker between donors and range States to secure funds to finance improved conservation of the African and Asian rhinoceros as key species in African and Asian ecosystems in the context of overall land-use patterns;

2. *Expresses its support* for the upcoming conference and requests Governments in a position to do so to extend financial support for its successful outcome, and for follow-up actions;

3. *Calls upon* African and Asian rhinoceros range States to implement their country rhinoceros conservation action plans across the species' range;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and the non-governmental organizations to support the preparation and implementation of the priority projects and/or country rhinoceros conservation action plans, the convening of the conference and the establishment of a coordinating body for rhinoceros conservation through financial contributions and technical assistance;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to:

(a) Strengthen the coordination of rhinoceros conservation in Africa and Asia by assisting collaborative approaches to rhinoceros conservation by range States;

(b) Establish an African and Asian rhinoceros conservation facility, if requested by the forthcoming conference of range States and donors, and, if the facility is established, to allocate the necessary funds for its initial operation and seek additional voluntary contributions from those in a position to make them to facilitate its long-term viability.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

## 17/24. *Climate*

### A. *Report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 16/41 of 31 May 1991 and, in particular, section III, paragraph 9, thereof, by which it requested the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, through its Chairman, to report on the progress of its activities to the Council at its seventeenth session,

*Having considered* the report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,[50]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

2. *Urges* Governments to increase their support for the Panel and endorse its revised structure and future work plans.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

### B. *Progress and future activities of the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 16/41 of 31 May 1991 and, in particular, section IV, paragraph 2 (f) thereof, by which it requested the Executive Director to report to the Council at its seventeenth regular session on progress and future activities of the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme,

*Having considered* the report on progress and future activities of the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme,[51]

1. *Notes* the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director, within the constraints of available resources, to further develop the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme and, in particular:

(a) To respond to the needs of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for information on climate impact and response strategy studies;

(b) To give increased attention to preparedness measures in connection with climate change and sealevel rise and responding to drought and other adverse climate events;

(c) To assist developing countries to develop and operate national climate impact assessment and response strategies programmes as part of national climate programmes and encourage their participation in the World Climate Programme through the initiation of country studies, including inventories of the sources and sinks of greenhouse gases; identification of the technology required; climate impact and response option assessments; and greenhouse abatement costing studies;

(d) To assist developing countries to build, within national climate programmes, provision for education, training and public information, with the aim of promoting endogenous capacity building;

(e) To provide a focus for country study information collection and exchange, in association with the report on country studies of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

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[50] UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.1, part II.

[51] *Ibid.*, part I.

C. *Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 16/41 of 31 May 1991 and, in particular, section IV thereof, on the World Climate Programme,

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme,[52]

1. *Notes* the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Meeting concerning coordination and resources for the Programme;

2. *Urges* Governments to ensure the early implementation of the recommendations of the Meeting, particularly in the provision of sufficient resources for the effective implementation of the expanded World Climate Programme;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to take the action outlined in her report, in cooperation with the executive boards/councils of the international organizations concerned with the World Climate Programme and its associated activities, to ensure the preparation of an integrated proposal concerning coordination and resource needs for the World Climate Programme, to be presented to Governments, comprising those parts of their respective programmes that are relevant to climate, along the lines of the four new thrusts identified.[53]

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/25. *Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 10/21 of 31 May 1982, in which the Council adopted the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, which provided the basis for the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental law for the last decade,

*Also recalling* its decision 16/25 of 31 May 1991, in which it noted the progress made in the implementation of decision 10/21,

*Taking note* of paragraph 38.22 (h) of Agenda 21[3] which calls for further development of international environmental law,

*Taking note also* of chapter 39 of Agenda 21,

*Taking note also* of the Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law for the Review of the Montevideo Programme, held in Rio de Janeiro from 30 October to 2 November 1991, and in Nairobi from 7 to 11 September 1992,[54]

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[52] UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.5.

[53] *Ibid.*, para. 2.

[54] See the reports of the Meeting (UNEP/Env.Law/2/3 and UNEP/Env.Law/2-2/3).

*Having considered* the Executive Director's report on the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law,[55]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in implementing the Montevideo Programme since its adoption by the Governing Council;

3. *Adopts* the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, as contained in the annex to the present decision, as the broad strategy for the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental law for the 1990s;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to implement the Programme, within available resources, *inter alia*, through preparing and disseminating analytical reports, organizing intergovernmental meetings, and contributing to capacity-building in the field of environmental law;

5. *Encourages* the Executive Director to implement the Programme, where appropriate, in close cooperation with relevant international organizations;

6. *Underlines* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the continued progressive development of international environmental law as a means for achieving wider adherence to and more efficient implementation of international environmental conventions, and for future negotiating processes for legal instruments in the field of sustainable development, in accordance with paragraph 39.1 (a) of Agenda 21;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to promote the coherent coordination of the functioning of environmental conventions, including their secretariats, with a view to improving the effectiveness of the implementation of the conventions;

8. *Decides* to review the implementation of the Programme not later than at its regular session in 1997.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

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[55] UNEP/GC.17/5 and Corr.1, paras. 26-30.

*Annex*

## PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PERIODIC REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

### - PROGRAMME AREAS, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES -

The following programme areas, together with the respective objectives, strategies and activities, are proposed as a non-exhaustive list of elements for the Programme:

### A. *Enhancing the capacity of States to participate effectively in the development and implementation of environmental law*

*Objective:*

To achieve the full participation of all States in the development and effective implementation of environmental law and policy.

*Strategy:*

Strengthen the capacity of States, in particular developing countries, and countries with economies in transition to take measures to protect their environment, to achieve sustainable development and to participate effectively in the initiation, negotiation and implementation of international legal instruments in the field of the environment.

*Activities:*

Coordinate with relevant international organizations to:

(a) Assist States to establish and/or improve institutional and administrative machinery for the development and enforcement of laws and regulations related to the environment and to sustainable development;

(b) Improve arrangements for the receipt, processing and dissemination of information on environmental legislation from national, regional and international sources;

(c) Train appropriate personnel from developing countries and countries with economies in transition by means of the provision of grants and fellowships for training and in-work attachments, as well as by organizing relevant seminars and workshops on environmental law;

(d) Assist States in developing and strengthening relevant national institutions and improving coordination, within Governments among departments and agencies;

(e) Prepare and issue reference material providing information on practices and experiences in the development, negotiation and implementation of environmental law agreements;

(f) Arrange for appropriate financial and/or technical assistance to enable representatives of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to participate in the negotiation of new or in the revision of existing international environmental agreements and in the international operation of such agreements;

(g) Develop, where appropriate, guidelines for the preparation of national legislation for the implementation of international environmental agreements;

(h) Encourage States to develop national environmental action plans or strategies, pursuant to international environmental agreements.

B. *Implementation of international legal instruments in the field of the environment*

*Objective*:

To promote the effective implementation of international legal instruments in the field of the environment, in order to achieve their objectives.

*Strategy*:

Focus on the effective implementation of instruments by, *inter alia*, assisting the States concerned in considering the establishment of systems of reporting and verification, taking into account the special situation and needs of developing countries.

*Activities*:

Assist, as appropriate, concerned States and relevant international organizations to:

(a) Identify the real causes of non-compliance and provide the maximum possible assistance, especially to developing countries, to facilitate compliance;

(b) Establish efficient and practical reporting systems on the effective, full and prompt implementation of international legal instruments, considering, *inter alia*, the reporting systems in other fields such as human rights and nuclear activities, providing, where appropriate, for public comments on such reports;

(c) Examine the possibility of establishing verification systems for international legal instruments having regard to the experiences gained, *inter alia*, under the Montreal Protocol and in other relevant contexts;

(d) Consider the establishment of other appropriate procedures and mechanisms for promoting and facilitating effective, full and prompt implementation of international legal instruments;

(e) Consider appropriate ways in which relevant international bodies, such as UNEP, might contribute towards the further development of such procedures and mechanisms.

C. *Adequacy of existing international instruments*

*Objective*:

To encourage Parties to international environmental instruments to assess the adequacy of the operation of those instruments with regard to the particular problems they address and for the purpose of better integrating environmental and developmental concerns.

*Strategy*:

Encourage the States concerned to establish appropriate systems for ascertaining the adequacy of international environmental instruments in effectively responding to the problems they address, even when fully or adequately complied with, and develop additional measures to ensure effective responses to related environmental problems.

*Activities*:

Encourage, as appropriate, concerned States and international organizations to:

(a) Undertake assessments of the adequacy of existing environmental instruments, taking into account the previous studies undertaken in this area and provide for the inclusion in future environmental instruments of adequate mechanisms for undertaking such assessments. The assessments should:

(i) Look at and beyond the issue of how many States have become parties to a particular instrument;

(ii) Ascertain whether the instrument adopts an adequate strategy for tackling the problem or whether the strategy adopted in the instrument continues to be adequate for tackling the problem and, where lack of effectiveness is identified, consider ways to rectify the problem; and

(iii) Utilize scientific and technical reviews, where appropriate by independent experts, of the state of the relevant area of the environment;

(b) Consider appropriate ways in which relevant international bodies, such as UNEP and its Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS), might contribute to such assessments;

(c) Promote broader accession to existing instruments, whilst being attentive to difficulties that might dissuade non-party States from accession.

D. *Dispute avoidance and settlement*

*Objective*:

To develop further the mechanisms to facilitate the avoidance and settlement of environmental disputes.

*Strategy*:

Develop methods, procedures and mechanisms that promote, *inter alia*, informed decisions, mutual understanding and confidence-building, with a view to avoiding environmental disputes and, where such avoidance is not possible, to their peaceful settlement.

*Activities*:

(a) Study and consider methods to broaden and make more effective the current mechanisms, such as the following, for possible inclusion in international legal instruments, where appropriate:

(i) Regular exchange of data and information;

(ii) Assessment of possible environmental impacts of planned measures on other States or areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;

(iii) Prior notification and consultation concerning planned measures that may have adverse impacts on other States or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;

(iv) Monitoring, fact-finding and reporting with regard to matters relating to obligations under the relevant instrument, even when no difference or dispute has yet arisen between the parties;

(v) Procedures to verify compliance through a non-judicial body established by the States Parties;

(vi) Compulsory or non-compulsory conciliation, whereby the Parties are committed to or voluntarily resort to conciliation by one or more experts whose report and recommendations are not, however, binding upon the Parties; and

(vii) Compulsory settlement of disputes, where appropriate, by one of the following means:

a. Binding arbitration, in accordance with procedures established under the instrument;

b. Judicial settlement, by submission of the dispute to the International Court of Justice or other relevant international tribunal;

(b) Consider the role that could be and has been played by the relevant international bodies, such as UNEP, in the anticipation, avoidance and resolution of disputes relating to the environment.

### E. *Legal and administrative mechanisms for the prevention and redress of pollution and other environmental damage*

*Objective:*

To assist States in developing and implementing programmes of action for the prevention and redress of pollution and other environmental damage.

*Strategy:*

Promote development of legal and administrative measures to facilitate access to information on, and effective identification, control and management of, potentially harmful activities prior to their commencement and during their continuance, and to ensure the availability of appropriate redress for environmental damage.

*Activities:*

(a) Further develop rules and procedures for appropriate remedies to victims of damage from environmentally harmful activities as well as appropriate provisions for potential victims of such damage by means, *inter alia*, of:

(i) Equal and non-discriminatory access to national administrative and judicial processes and procedures;

(ii) Use of economic and other innovative incentives for prevention and mitigation of pollution and other environmental damage;

(iii) Mechanisms for compensation and restoration, taking into account their potential preventive effects.

(b) Develop, as necessary, suitable legal instruments, within the framework of global, regional or subregional instruments, on redress, including compensation and restoration, for environmental damage;

(c) Develop, as necessary, suitable legal instruments, for the prevention of environmental damage;

(d) Assist States, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in the development and implementation of necessary legislation and related administrative and institutional mechanisms for the implementation of relevant international instruments or national policies on the prevention of and redress for environmental damage.

### F. *Environmental impact assessment*

*Objective:*

To promote widespread use of environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedures by Governments and, where appropriate, international organizations as an essential element in development planning and for assessing the effects of potentially harmful activities on the environment.

*Strategy:*

Encourage the utilization of EIA as an essential tool for development planning and promotion of the concept of sustainable development.

*Activities:*

(a) Build upon and elaborate, at the national, subregional and regional levels, existing national and international methods and procedures, taking into account the activities of business and industry, including transnational corporations, as well as non-governmental organizations;

(b) Promote general appreciation of EIA procedures by Governments and international organizations, taking into account the need to ensure that the application of EIA procedures takes due account of the capabilities and economic circumstances of developing countries;

(c) Provide assistance to developing countries and other countries in need in the elaboration of their national EIA legislation, methods and procedures;

(d) Promote preparation of regional agreements and guidelines on EIA, as appropriate;

(e) Promote wide acceptance of the principle that public participation is a necessary element of the EIA procedures;

(f) Promote the methods and procedures of EIA as a tool for international cooperation in cases of activities and in particular projects likely to have transboundary effects.

### G. *Environmental awareness, education, information and public participation*

*Objective*:

To promote public awareness of international environmental issues and regimes through education, provision of information and greater public participation in the consideration of international environmental regimes and the development of national laws, rules and standards.

*Strategy*:

Adopt and actively pursue public-awareness programmes relating to environmental issues and the development and implementation of international and national regimes concerning the environment and associated institutional mechanisms, in cooperation, wherever appropriate, with other bodies, including governmental and non-governmental organizations and educational institutions.

*Activities*:

(a) Promote public awareness of environmental instruments, principles and concepts and their integration into education at all levels and into research and development activities;

(b) Promote institutional mechanisms for the availability of educational and informative material on environmental issues;

(c) Facilitate public participation, including increased access to information, at appropriate stages in environmental decision-making, especially with regard to legislative, administrative and enforcement processes at the national and international levels and bearing in mind principle 10 of the Rio Declaration;

(d) Coordinate with relevant international organizations, including organizations which provide financing for educational projects or programmes in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, on projects in this area.

### H. *Concepts or principles significant for the future of international environmental law*

*Objective*:

Further develop, as appropriate, international environmental law.

*Strategy*:

Consider concepts or principles which may be applicable to the formation and development of international law in the field of environment and sustainable development.

*Activities*:

In cooperation with relevant United Nations and other competent international bodies:

(a) Examine existing environmental treaties, as well as other legal instruments, guiding principles and guidelines, with the aim of identifying principles or concepts which may be applicable to the formation and development of international environmental law;

(b) Review and, as appropriate, develop emerging and evolving concepts or principles which may be applicable to the formation and development of international environmental law;

(c) Consider, as appropriate, the further development of environmental rights and responsibilities;

(d) Review the branches of international law relevant to environmental law, with a view to identifying and assessing the emergence of new legal concepts and principles, as well as evolution in the content of established legal concepts and principles, considering their application to the development of international law in the field of environment and sustainable development.

### I. *Protection of the stratospheric ozone layer*

*Objective:*

To protect human health and environment against adverse effects resulting from or likely to result from human activities which deplete or are likely to deplete the ozone layer.

*Strategy:*

Promote the widest possible acceptance and effective implementation of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its adjustments and amendments and utilize the institutions and mechanisms established under these for further development of national and international programmes to respond to current and future concerns.

*Activity:*

Promote the widest acceptance of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol as adjusted and amended and provide appropriate support to States Parties to, and mechanisms of, those instruments to facilitate their full implementation.

### J. *Transboundary air pollution control*

*Objective:*

To promote and develop international cooperation for the prevention and reduction to environmentally acceptable levels of emissions causing transboundary air pollution and their effect which causes damage to the environment.

*Strategy:*

(a) Consider the possible development of international legal instruments and mechanisms at appropriate levels for the prevention, control and reduction to acceptable levels of emissions causing transboundary air pollution and their effects;

(b) Assist States, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to promote the development of national arrangements and programmes to prevent, control and reduce emissions causing transboundary air pollution and their effects.

*Activities*:

(a) Encourage and assist, if necessary, the development of bilateral, subregional and regional cooperative initiatives, as appropriate, regarding the activities provided for in paragraph 9.28 (a) of chapter 9 of Agenda 21, including monitoring and assessment procedures, and taking into account any existing relevant instruments;

(b) Consider whether emissions causing transboundary air pollution and their effect might be appropriately addressed at the global level and, if so, what form such action might take;

(c) Encourage and assist the development and implementation of national legislation, institutions and programmes, particularly in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition including effective enforcement mechanisms.

### K. *Conservation, management and sustainable development of soils and forests*

*Objective*:

To develop suitable regimes for conservation, management and sustainable development of soils and forests, taking into account the close links between desertification, deforestation, climate change and biological diversity.

*Strategy*:

In close cooperation with agencies and organizations engaged in such fields as soil conservation, forestry, land use, and desertification, promote the implementation of the World Soil Charter, the relevant elements of the World Conservation Strategy, the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, the Forest Principles adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, by proposing measures for their effective implementation at appropriate levels, through the use, *inter alia*, of arrangements which address problems in these areas in accordance with relevant chapters of Agenda 21.

*Activities*:

(a) Promote effective implementation of the Plan of Action for the realization of the goals and objectives of the World Soil Charter, including the preparation of guidelines for domestic legislation and related institutional mechanisms;

(b) Develop appropriate arrangements for coordination of the activities of the various bodies engaged in such fields as soil conservation, forestry, land use and desertification;

(c) Contribute, as appropriate, to the development of arrangements, at appropriate levels, establishing agreed strategies and action plans and programmes on these subjects;

(d) Contribute to the development of an international convention to combat desertification pursuant to paragraph 12.40 of chapter 12 of Agenda 21 and in accordance with relevant decisions of the United Nations General Assembly;

(e) Promote the early entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the widest possible participation;

(f) Promote national and regional arrangements for coordination and cooperation between relevant bodies and institutions;

(g) Promote integrated national and regional policies, as well as education and training programmes, for the implementation of such policies;

(h) Promote the implementation of the Forest Principles adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and on the basis of the implementation of the principles, consider the need for, and feasibility of, appropriate internationally agreed arrangements to promote international cooperation on forest management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests in accordance with paragraph 11.13 of chapter 11 of Agenda 21.

### L. *Transport, handling and disposal of hazardous wastes*

*Objective:*

To reduce, control, prevent and eventually eliminate damage and minimize the risk thereof from the generation, management, transport, handling and disposal of hazardous wastes.

*Strategy:*

Promote wide participation in, and effective implementation of, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and related regional agreements.

*Activities:*

(a) Encourage wide participation in the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;

(b) Assist developing countries in the formulation and implementation of national legislation and the establishment of related institutional and administrative mechanisms to implement the Basel Convention and related regional agreements;

(c) Provide assistance, upon request, to the parties to the Basel Convention to develop machinery for controlling transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and prepare a protocol on liability and compensation;

(c) Assist the parties to the Basel Convention in their consideration of, the review and revision, as necessary, of the Basel Convention and related regional agreements in the light of experience acquired in their implementation.

### M. *International trade in potentially harmful chemicals*

*Objective:*

To ensure that international trade in all types of potentially harmful chemicals is conducted in a safe and environmentally sound manner taking due account of the rights of, and fully respecting matters of health and environment of, transit and importing States and, to this end, to ensure the safe and environmentally sound management of potentially harmful chemicals.

*Strategy:*

Review, update and strengthen the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade, as amended, with particular emphasis on the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure, promote their wide and effective implementation, and consider the development of legally binding instruments and other appropriate programmes.

*Activities:*

(a) Encourage the widest possible acceptance and effective implementation of the amended London Guidelines;

(b) Update information on the subject, including inputs from the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) on the implementation of the London Guidelines;

(c) Assist the implementation of the amended London Guidelines through the development of guidelines for national legislation and institutional machinery;

(d) Consider the need for the development of a global convention, taking into account the experience gained in the implementation of the amended London Guidelines and the FAO Code of Conduct on Pesticides, concentrating mainly on the PIC procedure, including the questions relating to the regulation of export of chemicals of which the use is banned or severely restricted in the exporting country;

(e) Strengthen and expand programmes on chemical risk assessment in accordance with paragraph 19.14 of chapter 19 of Agenda 21;

(f) Invite the relevant international bodies to jointly convene an intergovernmental meeting on chemical risk assessment and management;

(g) Assist States in developing community right-to-know or other public information-dissemination programmes, when appropriate, as possible risk reduction tools;

(h) Consider developing a guidance document on community right-to-know or other public information-dissemination programmes for use by interested Governments, building on existing work on accidents and including new guidance on toxic emission inventories and risk communication;

(i) Consider the establishment of a globally harmonized hazard classification system and the elaboration of a harmonized labelling system;

(j) Strengthen consultation of relevant agencies engaged in the field, in order to enhance cooperation and harmonization of their activities;

(k) Assist States in encouraging the development of procedures for the exchange between countries of their assessment reports on chemicals for use in national chemical assessment programmes, as provided in paragraph 19.14 (c) of chapter 19 of Agenda 21;

(l) Pursue the development of a code of ethics on international trade in potentially harmful chemicals aimed at achieving the objectives of the amended London Guidelines;

(m) Promote the strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for the safe and environmentally sound management of chemicals, and the prevention of illegal international traffic in potentially harmful chemicals.

### N. *Environmental protection and integrated management, development and use of inland water resources*

*Objective:*

To prevent, reduce and control the degradation of inland water resources through the application, as appropriate, of an integrated approach to the development, management and use of water resources thereby assisting States to prevent disputes and ensure that adequate supplies of water of good quality are maintained for the entire population of this planet.

*Strategy:*

(a) Encourage the development of cooperative mechanisms between States including, as appropriate, international legal instruments for the protection and integrated management, development and use of transboundary water resources with a view to the prevention, reduction, control and reversal of their degradation and for the prevention and peaceful resolution of disputes between States;

(b) Promote the development of national legislation, institutions and programmes for the protection and efficient management of inland water resources, with particular emphasis on maintaining an adequate supply of safe drinking water, while preserving the hydrological, biological, and chemical functions of ecosystems, adapting human activities within the capacity limits of nature and combating vectors of water-related diseases.

*Activities:*

(a) Cooperate closely with other bodies dealing with the integrated management, development and use of inland water resources;

(b) Promote and develop legal regimes, as appropriate, for the conservation and integrated management, development and use of transboundary water resources, taking into account, *inter alia,* the International Law Commission's draft articles on the law of non-navigational uses of international watercourses, the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, and other relevant regional and subregional conventions;

(c) Encourage and assist the development of national legislation, institutions and programmes, including effective enforcement mechanisms;

(d) Identify and propose rules and procedures for dispute prevention and dispute settlement that are suitable for inclusion, as appropriate, in international instruments dealing with the integrated management, development and use of transboundary water resources.

### O. *Marine Pollution from land-based sources*

*Objective*:

To prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment and degradation of coastal areas from land-based sources of pollution, and to reduce or minimize the adverse effects that have already occurred.

*Strategy:*

Cooperate in the development of regional treaties, protocols or other instruments regarding the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities, where necessary, update and strengthen the Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution and promote their widest possible acceptance by States; and consider the elaboration, if necessary, of a global instrument, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

*Activities:*

(a) In cooperation with relevant international organizations, review and, where necessary, strengthen existing bilateral, subregional or regional agreements and protocols or develop new instruments for the protection of the marine environment from land-based sources of pollution;

(b) Review and, where necessary, revise the 1985 Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Sources of Pollution;

(c) Provide advice to States in the elaboration, adaptation, development and enforcement of national legislation, implementing relevant rules and standards concerning land-based sources of pollution;

(d) On the basis of the experience acquired in the implementation of existing instruments, examine the need for and advisability of developing global rules and standards with or without a treaty;

(e) In pursuance of Agenda 21 (paragraph 26 of chapter 17), the UNEP Governing Council should convene, as soon as practicable, an intergovernmental meeting on the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities to take forward these tasks.

P. *Management of coastal areas*

*Objective:*

To promote the integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas.

*Strategy:*

Promote, in cooperation with relevant United Nations and other competent international bodies, the application of the concept of sustainable development in the management of coastal areas and the pursuit, for this purpose, of an integrated approach, through effective action at the national, subregional and regional levels.

*Activities:*

Develop guidelines for national legislation to implement the principles on integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas set out in programme area A of chapter 17 (Integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas, including exclusive economic zones) of Agenda 21.

Q. *Protection of the marine environment and the law of the sea*

*Objective*:

To assist States, as appropriate, to promote the protection of the marine environment through the development, and effective implementation of, international law in that field including regional cooperation and those instruments developed under the regional seas programme.

*Strategy*:

Promote the application of, and respect for, international law related to protection of the marine environment as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and in other relevant international instruments, which law provides the basis on which to pursue protection and sustainable development of the marine environment.

*Activities*:

(a) Assist States to promote the protection of the marine environment in accordance with chapter 17 of Agenda 21;

(b) Keep under continual review the results of scientific research, with a view to addressing appropriately any environmental problems that could arise in the future in this area;

(c) Support the proposal in Agenda 21 (paragraph 50 of chapter 17) for the convening under United Nations auspices of an intergovernmental conference on straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, taking into account relevant activities at the subregional, regional, and global levels, with a view to promoting effective implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

R. *International cooperation in environmental emergencies*

*Objective*:

To achieve effective international, as well as regional cooperation in the monitoring, assessment, anticipation, prevention of, and response to environmental emergencies, and to develop appropriate legal arrangements for cooperation and assistance in dealing with environmental emergencies.

*Strategy*:

To develop, in cooperation with relevant agencies and organizations, necessary arrangements at appropriate levels, and where appropriate on a sectoral basis, for effective cooperation and assistance in dealing with environmental emergencies.

*Activities*:

(a) In cooperation with relevant agencies and organizations, review the experience gained in the implementation of existing arrangements relating to the handling of environmental emergencies, with a view to identifying areas of possible improvements and provide for arrangements for monitoring, assessment and prevention of environmental emergencies;

(b) Consider the need for the development of instruments and arrangements at the appropriate levels, including those dealing with early notification, cooperation and mutual assistance in environmental emergencies;

(c) Review, in cooperation with relevant United Nations organs and organizations, the operation of the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance established by the Governing Council, with a view to deciding on its continuation after the expiry of the experimental period in 1993;

(d) Upon request of the competent bodies cooperate with and provide assistance to those bodies in their examination, if found necessary, of existing international rules for the protection of the environment during armed conflict.

5. *Additional subjects for possible consideration during the present decade*

The following additional subjects have been identified as areas where action by the appropriate international bodies to develop international legal responses may be appropriate during the present decade:

(a) Environmental protection of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;

(b) Use and management of biotechnology, including the question of intellectual and property rights with respect to genetic resources;

(c) Liability and compensation/restitution for environmental damage;

(d) Environment and trade;

(e) Examination of the environmental implications of international agreements on subjects which do not relate directly to the environment;

(f) Environmental problems of human settlements, including their growth;

(g) Transfer of appropriate technology and technical cooperation.

## 17/26. *The United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 16/9 of 31 May 1991, in which the Council established, on an experimental basis, the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance as a mechanism to focus on the assessment of and responses to man-made environmental emergencies, acting in cooperation and in coordination with other United Nations agencies,

*Noting* paragraph 26 of General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 in which the Governing Council was invited to report to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the experience gained within the Centre,

*Further noting* paragraph 39.6 of Agenda 21,

*Taking note* of the efforts made by the Centre to clarify its possible role and functions within the United Nations system,

*Taking note* of the interest shown in the work of the Centre by Governments and international organizations,

*Recognizing* that more time is required to draw precise conclusions and define the possible role and functions of the Centre in the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the experimental stage of the Centre;[56]

2. *Welcomes* with appreciation the support and assistance extended to the Centre by Governments, the European Community and United Nations agencies;

3. *Decides* to extend the experimental stage of the Centre for a further twelve months;

4. *Further decides* that, during the extended period, the Centre should restructure its present activities to focus its capacities to address the following mandate:

(a) To identify the specific needs for emergency assistance of countries facing different types of emergencies leading to environmental damage;

(b) To analyse all international response systems and capacities, to assess the ability of the United Nations and other organizations to respond to environmental emergencies and to identify the main gaps, based on a review of major disasters that have occurred in the last ten years;

(c) To develop, in the light of the findings of the exercise referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of the present paragraph, a set of concrete proposals for the enhancement of the international response capacity, with a special focus on the improvement of the United Nations system in this regard. Such proposals should address clear, practical and cost-effective modalities of collaboration and coordination between the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance and the other relevant United Nations bodies, particularly the Department for Humanitarian Affairs;

(d) To convene further the inter-agency working group referred to in the report of the Executive Director[57] with a view to identifying the appropriate United Nations institutional mechanism for environmental emergency response;

5. *Requests* the Centre to convene a governmental advisory meeting in November 1993 for a first consideration of the findings and an initial drafting of proposals for decision;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to allocate necessary staff and funding to the Centre for fulfilling the mandate referred to in paragraph 4 of the present decision;

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[56] UNEP/GC.17/29.

[57] *Ibid.*, para. 7.

7. *Further requests* the Executive Director to submit a final comprehensive report and recommendations on these questions to Governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives for decision at the end of the twelve-month period.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/27. *Action for countries with economies in transition*

*The Governing Council,*

*Supporting* the proposals regarding the enhancement of regional cooperation put forward by the Executive Director in her statement at the 3rd plenary meeting of the Governing Council at its seventeenth session, on 17 May 1993,[58]

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to participate fully through the Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Environment Programme and in coordination with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and other international organizations in the follow-up of the 1993 Lucerne Conference on Environment for Europe, and particularly, to consider how the Programme can best assist the countries with economies in transition, with their environmental problems;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to inform the Governing Council at its eighteenth regular session of the results obtained.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/28. *The United Nations Environment Programme and the strengthening of the regional offices*

*The Governing Council,*

*Fully aware* that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 initiated a process that should lead all countries of the world to sustainable development and noting that Agenda 21,[3] in its paragraph 38.23, states that the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme should be strengthened without weakening its headquarters in Nairobi,

*Convinced* of the need to adjust the existing structures as regards regional cooperation on the environment to the challenges posed by the process initiated in Rio de Janeiro,

*Taking into account* decisions of meetings in various regions at the level of ministers of environment,

*Taking also into account* the role of the Commission for Sustainable Development related to paragraphs 21, 22 and 25 of the General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 and paragraphs 38.11 and 38.13 (a) of Agenda 21, on coordination of the United Nations system,

*Recalling* its decision 15/15 of 25 May 1989 on the regional office system,

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[58] UNEP/GC.17/27/Add.1.

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to review the role and function of regional representation of the United Nations Environment Programme with a view to enhancing the process of strengthening regional and liaison offices by providing greater functional and administrative linkages to allow greater flexibility in the annual programmes;

2. *Agrees* that the review include consideration of the following factors:

(a) Relevant aspects of Agenda 21 as they relate to the regional role;

(b) The role of the United Nations Environment Programme, its role in relation to Agenda 21 and its programme priorities as determined by the Governing Council at its seventeenth session;

(c) Specific aspects of the role, functions and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme that could be enhanced by regional activity;

(d) Assessment of the specific needs of individual regions;

(e) Scope for cooperation with other multilateral and regional bodies, including opportunities for co-location and sharing of administrative resources;

(f) Regional office communications and networking with individual Governments, particularly with those not represented in Nairobi;

3. *Recommends* the Executive Director, as appropriate, to revise and develop plans for regional representation, including specific mandates for individual regional offices, and consult with Governments, including through the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

4. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, within existing authority and resources, to implement the results of the review and the regional mandate with a view to improving the Programme's regional representation;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to allocate the financial and human resources necessary for more effective implementation of programmes that are more related to the environmental problems of each region;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue making efforts to link the implementation of the regional programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme in a coordinated manner with other international organizations, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and the regional economic commissions;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to inform the Governing Council, at its eighteenth session, on the Programme's regional representation, regional offices and liaison offices, including:

(a) Information on size and location of regional and liaison offices and outposted staff;

(b) Functions performed by regional representation;

(c) A mandate for the Programme's regional representation;

(d) Advice on action taken to improve the Programme's regional representation;

8. *Endorses* the relevant decisions taken at the regional ministerial meetings on the environment.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/29. *Intergovernmental forum on chemical risk assessment and management*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* the commitment of the United Nations Environment Programme to international cooperation on chemicals through, *inter alia*, the International Programme on Chemical Safety,

*Noting* the recommendations of the meeting of government-designated experts, held in London in December 1991, for the establishment of an intergovernmental forum on chemical risk assessment and management,

*Noting also* the recommendations on the same issue contained in paragraphs 19.75 and 19.76 of Agenda 21,[5]

*Further noting* the offer of the Swedish Government to host such a meeting on chemical risk assessment and management, in Stockholm in April 1994,[59]

*Stressing* the important role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting, by itself and in cooperation with other United Nations agencies through the International Programme on Chemical Safety, the programme areas in chapter 19 of Agenda 21,

*Recognizing* the need for early action,

*Requests* the Executive Director to convene, together with the executive heads of the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organisation, a meeting of experts from Governments and relevant intergovernmental organizations that could constitute the first Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Risk Assessment and Management and to consider the necessary implications for the 1994-1995 programme budget.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/30. *Convention on biological diversity*

*The Governing Council,*

*Welcoming* the conclusion of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its subsequent signing by one hundred and sixty-one States and the European Communities and its subsequent ratification by sixteen States,

*Noting* with appreciation the initiative of the Executive Director in actively pursuing the implementation of the Nairobi Final Act,[60]

1. *Calls upon* States that have not yet done so to sign the Convention on Biological Diversity and upon signatories of the Convention that have not yet done so to ratify, accept or approve it at the earliest opportunity;

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[59] See the report of the Programme Committee at the seventeenth session of the Governing Council annex II below, para. 217.

[60] See UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.4, part I.

2. *Establishes* an Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity to prepare for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in accordance with resolution 2 of the Nairobi Final Act of the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to convene meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee and to implement the decisions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Biological Diversity on action to prepare for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including preparatory work on issues particularly referred to in resolutions 1, 2 and 3 of the Nairobi Final Act.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/31. *The environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* the decisions of the Governing Council on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, and relevant resolutions and decisions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

*Recalling* also the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, particularly principle 23 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[5]

*Taking note* of the Executive Director's reports on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories,[61]

*Noting* the ongoing Middle East peace negotiations,

1. *Expresses its concern* over the deterioration of the environmental conditions in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories, and stresses the need for protecting their environment and their natural resources;

2. *Welcomes* the contents of the Executive Director's report, commends the cooperation extended by most of the parties concerned to the United Nations team in preparing the study contained in the reports, and requests the Executive Director to implement the recommendations contained therein;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to complete and update the report on the state of the environment in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories and submit this report to the Council at its eighteenth regular session;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to provide the necessary technical assistance in Palestinian institutional and self-capacity-building in the field of the environment, including training in the relevant necessary fields;

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[61] UNEP/GC.17/Inf.12.

5. *Invites* all the parties concerned to provide the necessary assistance to the Executive Director to implement the present decision.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/32. *The Environment Fund: use of resources in 1992-1993 and proposed use of projected resources in 1994-1995 and 1996-1997*

*The Governing Council,*

*Having considered* the reports of the Executive Director on the Environment Fund covering the use of resources in 1992-1993 and the proposed use of projected resources in 1994-1995 and 1996-1997[62] and on the proposed programme of Fund activities for the biennium 1994-1995,[63]

1. *Notes* that the proposed programme is a transitional document which will have to be further developed in the future in order to incorporate changes required by documents as adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

2. *Reaffirms* that the process of implementation of Agenda 21[3] must be developed in close cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with relevant provisions of Agenda 21;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to implement Agenda 21 in accordance with its relevant provisions and the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, taking into consideration the specific needs and conditions of each region;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to present to the Council at its next session, whether special or regular, her estimates of the costs for the Programme fully to implement those parts of Agenda 21 specifically recommended for the United Nations Environment Programme's attention;

5. *Reaffirms* that, in conformity with Agenda 21 and in order to be able to exercise all the functions assigned to it in Agenda 21, the United Nations Environment Programme requires access to greater expertise and provision of adequate financial resources, particularly in accordance with chapters 33 and 38 of Agenda 21;

6. *Considers* that, in the process of assigning priorities for financing by the programme of Fund activities, duplication of efforts by other organizations should be avoided and whenever possible, programmes and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme should be complemented by additional activities supported by funding from other sources, including international funds;

7. *Notes with concern* that contributions in 1992 and pledges for 1993 have not only fallen short of the target established by the Council but that they will be insufficient to finance the Fund programme activities approved by the Council at its sixteenth session;

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[62] UNEP/GC.17/16 and Add.1.

[63] UNEP/GC.17/7 and Corr.1.

8. *Recognizes* the need to broaden the base of contributions to the Environment Fund and calls upon all Governments in a position to do so to contribute to the Environment Fund or, where they are already contributing, to increase their contributions on a voluntary basis;

9. *Urges* Governments to make their pledges in advance of the year to which they relate and to pay their contributions early in the year in order for the secretariat to plan and execute the programme more effectively and avoid unnecessary carry-over of funds;

10. *Takes note* of the revised allocations for 1992-1993 Fund programme activities;[64]

11. *Reaffirms* the catalytic role of the United Nations Environment Programme;

12. *Underlines* that high priority should be given to activities which give direct or indirect substantial support to developing countries;

13. *Welcomes* the broad approach of the Executive Director to the programme activities of the United Nations Environment Programme, which has been taken into account in determining the priorities for the United Nations Environment Programme as indicated in the present decision;

14. *Approves* an appropriation of 120/130 million dollars for a core Fund programme activity for the biennium 1994-1995 and decides to apportion this appropriation as follows:

| *Subprogramme/budget line* | | *Percentage* |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Protection of the atmosphere | 3 |
| 2. | Environmental management of freshwater resources | 8 |
| 3. | Environmental management of terrestrial ecosystems and their resources | 16 |
| 4. | Environmental management of all kinds of seas and coastal area management | 9 |
| 5. | Environmental health, settlements and human welfare | 6 |
| 6. | Environmental economics, accounting and management tools | 4 |
| 7. | International law on sustainable development, environmental law, institutions and policies | 4 |
| 8. | Toxic chemicals and waste management | 4 |
| 9. | Industry, energy and the environment | 6 |
| 10. | Earthwatch data, information, assessment and early-warning | 13 |

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[64] UNEP/GC.17/16, table 5.

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|---|---|---|
| 11. | Capacity-building for environmentally sound and sustainable development, including the establishment of international environmentally sound technology centres | 18 |
| 12. | Support to and cooperation for environmental action (including global and regional cooperation) | 9 |

15. *Approves* an additional appropriation of up to 10 million dollars for use as and when additional resources become available for a supplementary programme, in particular for further implementation of Agenda 21;

16. *Approves* an appropriation of 5 million dollars to the Fund programme reserve for the biennium 1994-1995;

17. *Reconfirms* the Executive Director's authority to adjust the apportionment for each budget line by 20 per cent, within each of the above appropriations for Fund programme activities in 1994-1995;

18. *Further emphasizes* the need to maintain the liquidity of the Fund at all times;

19. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to enter into forward commitments not exceeding 20 million dollars for Fund programme activities in 1996-1997;

20. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its regular meetings on matters relating to programme implementation and planning.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/33. *Programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1992-1993 and proposed budget for the biennium 1994-1995*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* paragraph 5 of its decision 16/45 of 31 May 1991, by which it approved an initial appropriation of $37,129,000 for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1992-1993, including $1,888,900, on a loan basis, towards the construction of new office accommodation,

*Further recalling* paragraph 6 of its decision 16/45 of 31 May 1991 by which it approved a further supplementary appropriation of $3,701,600, including $1,601,100 on a loan basis towards construction of new office accommodation, and $2,100,500 to be used by the Executive Director for the creation of new posts if and when sufficient resources became available to permit allocations for Fund programme and Fund programme reserve activities in the amount of $185 million,

*Having considered* the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as well as the proposed budget for the biennium 1994-1995, as set out in the Executive Director's report,[65] together with the related comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[66]

1. *Takes note* of the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

2. *Notes* that the Executive Director was able to contain the programme and programme support costs in 1992 within the yardstick established in paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 12/19 of 28 May 1984 of 33 per cent of estimated contributions and that the Executive Director will endeavour to do so in 1993;

3. *Approves revised* appropriations of $37,818,600 for the programme and programme support costs budget for 1992-1993, including $3,490,000 on a loan basis towards the construction of new office accommodation, with the revised distribution by programme and object of expenditure proposed by the Executive Director;

4. *Approves* an initial appropriation of $41,829,500 for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1994-1995 with the expenditure pattern by programme and object of expenditure proposed in those estimates;

5. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, within the appropriation set out in paragraph 4 of the present decision, to maintain, direct or establish such technical posts as are necessary to implement the programme deriving from the priorities set out in Governing Council decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993, relating to the proposed use of projected resources for the biennium 1994-1995;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to administer the appropriation for the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1994-1995 with utmost economy and restraint consistent with the effective implementation of the environment programme, bearing in mind the availability of resources and the need to avoid the unnecessary increase of administrative costs to the detriment of programme implementation;

7. *Encourages* the Executive Director to tailor the training programmes to the specific needs of the staff with a view to achieving enhanced efficiency and productivity;

8. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its eighteenth regular session on the implementation of the programme and programme support costs budget during the first year of the biennium 1994-1995.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

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[65] UNEP/GC.17/17.

[66] UNEP/GC.17/L.1.

17/34. *On-site interpretation facilities at Gigiri, Nairobi*

*The Governing Council*

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on on-site interpretation facilities at Gigiri, Nairobi;[67]

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to keep this matter under review and to report thereon to the Council if and when the provision of on-site interpretation facilities at Gigiri, Nairobi, becomes financially advantageous;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to plan, to the extent possible, to hold United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) meetings consecutively in order to reduce costs, and further to encourage coordination with other organizations for the same purpose.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/35. *Periodicity and duration of sessions of the Governing Council*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 42/185 of 11 December 1987 on a biennial cycle of sessions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Also recalling* General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992 on the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

*Noting in particular* General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 on institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

*Conscious* of the importance of the role and responsibilities of the Council in following up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

*Confirms* that the biennial cycle of meetings of the Governing Council shall be retained, but that there shall be flexibility for the Governing Council to call for special sessions, as deemed necessary.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/36. *Provision of language facilities for the Committee of Permanent Representatives*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 13/2 of 23 May 1985, in which it decided to establish, in accordance with rule 62 of its rules of procedure, an open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives, and its decision 14/4 of

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[67] UNEP/GC.17/3.

18 June 1987, in which it decided that the Committee of Permanent Representatives should meet with the Executive Director at least four times a year,

*Also recalling* General Assembly resolution 46/185 C, section XI, paragraph 2, of 20 December 1991 which referred, *inter alia*, to the financing of meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives,

*Noting* that in 1992 and the first half of 1993 the costs incurred for interpretation facilities for the Committee of Permanent Representatives have been borne by the regular budget of the United Nations,

*Bearing in mind* its decision 15/12 of 25 May 1989, by which it recognized the requirements for full language services for meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives,

*Having considered* the Executive Director's report on the provision of language facilities for meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives[68] and bearing in mind that the majority of countries took the view that these costs should be borne in full by the regular budget of the United Nations,

*Urges* the Executive Director to request the Secretary-General to reconsider his proposal on the financing of interpretation facilities for the Committee of Permanent Representatives, with a view to having the costs borne by the regular budget of the United Nations.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/37. *Reduction of Governing Council documentation*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decisions 14/5 of 17 June 1987 and 16/5 of 31 May 1991 on the rationalization of Governing Council documentation,

*Concerned* about the growing volume of documentation being submitted to sessions of the Governing Council,

*Desirous* of reducing the number and volume of documents being submitted to the Council,

*Noting* the advantages of having some reports, particularly purely informative reports such as those on the implementation of Governing Council decisions, submitted directly and immediately to Governments or through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, instead of to the Governing Council itself,

1. *Decides* to mandate the Bureau to review each draft decision which contains a request for reporting, with a view to suggesting to the sponsors how such reporting might best be implemented;

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[68] UNEP/GC.17/17/Add.1.

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to submit policy documents such as budget, programme and similar reports directly to the Governing Council but, whenever possible, send information documents, studies, and selected reports to Governments, when applicable through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, but not as official documents of the Council;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to take steps to avoid overlap between the various reports she submits to the Governing Council and to continue to prepare concise summaries of, or preambles to, the documents;

4. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to present to future Council sessions the executive summaries of Annual Reports as information documents;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to explore the use of brief footnotes instead of lengthy quotations in her reports;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue the close dialogue between the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the Secretariat as a means of exchanging information as well as of further reducing the volume of documentation to sessions of the Council.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/38. *Improvement of facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* its decision 16/1 of 31 May 1991, in which it requested the Executive Director to continue negotiations with the host Government with a view to improving the facilities available at the headquarters office of the United Nations Environment Programme at Nairobi,

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on the issue,[69]

*Recognizing* the specific need for improved communication facilities at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, in order to enable Governments and their representatives in various meetings to communicate efficiently with their respective missions and capitals,

1. *Notes* the report of the Executive Director on the improvement of facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of the Republic of Kenya for the assistance that it has provided the Executive Director in improving the facilities at the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters;

3. *Urges* the Government of the Republic of Kenya to continue to assist the Executive Director in improving the facilities at the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters;

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[69] UNEP/GC.17/21 and Add.1.

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to consider in her planning for further improvement of communication facilities at the headquarters office the provision of such facilities - for local use - to delegations participating in meetings of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as to the Permanent Representatives to the Programme;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to keep under review the issue of using electronic mail to distribute official documents of the Governing Council to Governments;

6. *Expresses its gratitude* to those Governments that have expressed their intent to participate in the generous donation of sixteen satellite ground stations to the United Nations Environment Programme;

7. *Approves* the Executive Director's proposal to finalize an agreement with the participants in the Mercure project in full prior consultation with and with the consent of the Government of Kenya, taking into consideration the telecommunication facilities in place, so as to enable the project to be implemented expeditiously;

8. *Agrees* that in 1995 any recurrent costs of the Mercure project as amended in the light of paragraph 7 of the present decision should be charged to the Fund programme reserve and that all proposals for recurrent costs should be submitted to the Council for approval at its eighteenth regular session;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to explore the feasibility of extending the Mercure network of satellite stations to other agencies and developing countries as rapidly as possible.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/39. *Management of trust funds and counterpart contributions*

*The Governing Council,*

*Having considered* the report of the Executive Director on management of trust funds and counterpart contributions,[70]

1. *Takes* note of the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds and counterpart contributions and of the developments relating to trust funds administered by the Executive Director, as described in the Annual Report for 1991;

2. *Expresses, while agreeing that it is preferable that support to the United Nations Environment Programme be in the form of increased contributions to the Environment Fund, its appreciation* to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other institutions that have increased their support to the United Nations Environment Programme by means of contributions to trust funds;

3. *Also expresses its appreciation* to Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other institutions that have contributed counterpart funds often upon the request of the Executive Director;

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[70] UNEP/GC.17/19.

4. *Notes* that all the trust funds established within the framework of the Environment Fund should be considered in accordance with Article V of the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;[71]

5. *Notes* that the Executive Director will apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the financial policies and procedures of the Secretary-General which relate to trust funds;[72]

6. *Notes also* that the efforts aimed at reducing the number of trust funds did not meet with the approval of participating Governments;[73]

7. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following general trust funds by the Executive Director, under the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, since the sixteenth session of the Governing Council:

(a) Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, expiry date 31 December 1994;

(b) Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, expiry date 31 December 1994; and

(c) Trust Fund for the Establishment of the Interim Secretariat of the Biological Diversity Convention, expiry date 31 December 1996;

8. *Notes and approves* the establishment of the following technical cooperation trust funds by the Executive Director, under the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, since the sixteenth session of the Governing Council:

(a) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Multilateral Fund Established under the Montreal Protocol, expiry date 31 December 1993; and

(b) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Establishment of the International Environmental Technology Centre in Japan, expiry date 31 December 1993;

9. *Notes and approves* the establishment by the Executive Director, under the General Procedures Governing the Operations of the Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme, on a contingency basis, of the following technical cooperation trust funds:

(a) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund on Land Degradation Assessment and Mapping (financed by the Government of the Netherlands); and

(b) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the Provision of Junior Professional Officers (financed by the Government of Belgium);

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[71] *Ibid.*, paras. 5-6.

[72] See UNEP/GC.17/19, para. 7.

[73] *Ibid.*, para. 11.

10. *Notes and approves* the following changes in the names of some general and technical cooperation trust funds:

(a) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of the Multilateral Fund Activities: formerly the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Interim Multilateral Fund Established under the Montreal Protocol;

(b) Trust Fund for the Multilateral Fund under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer: formerly the Trust Fund for the Interim Multilateral Fund under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; and

(c) Trust Fund for the Financing of the New International Environment Prize: formerly the Trust Fund for the Sasakawa Environment Prize;

11. *Notes and approves* the extension of the following general trust funds by the Executive Director:

(a) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, to be extended through 31 December 1995;

(b) Trust Fund for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, to be extended through 31 December 1998;

(c) Trust Fund for the Multilateral Fund under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, to have an open expiry date;

(d) Trust Fund for the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, to be extended through 31 December 1994; and

(e) Trust Fund for the Environmental Training Network in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be extended through 31 December 1994;

12. *Notes and approves* the extension of the following technical cooperation trust funds by the Executive Director:

(a) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Consultancies to Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Finland), to be extended through 31 December 1994;

(b) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Support the Clearing-house Mechanism with Consultancies on Strategies for Dealing with Serious Environment Problems (financed by the Government of Norway), to be extended through 31 December 1993;

(c) Technical Assistance Trust Fund for the Integrated Pilot Project on Environmental Management and Protection of Andean Ecosystems (financed by the Government of Germany), to be extended through 31 December 1993;

(d) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Financing of Professional Officers (financed by the Government of the Republic of Korea) to be extended through 31 December 1993;

13. *Approves* the extension of the following general trust funds by the Executive Director, subject to the Programme receiving requests to do so from the relevant Governments of the region or Contracting Parties:

(a) Regional Seas Trust Fund for the Eastern African Region, to be extended through 31 December 1995;

(b) Regional Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of East Asian Seas, to be extended through 31 December 1995;

(c) Regional Trust Fund for Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, to be extended through 31 December 1995;

(d) Trust Fund for Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution, to be extended through 31 December 1995; and

(e) Trust Fund for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment and Coastal Areas of the West and Central African Region to be extended through 31 December 1995;

14. *Approves* the extension of the following technical cooperation trust funds by the Executive Director, subject to the conclusion of agreements on the required extensions:

(a) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Control of Environmental Health Hazards and Promotion of Chemical Safety (financed by the Government of Germany), to be extended through 31 December 1993;

(b) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Activities in Developing Countries on Environmental Awareness and Machinery (financed by the Government of Germany), to be extended through 31 December 1994;

(c) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Establishment of a Global Resource Information Database (GRID) Centre in Arendal (financed by the Government of Norway), to be extended in line with the date to be agreed;

(d) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of the Activities Funded by the Global Environment Facility, to be extended through 31 December 1995;

(e) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to UNEP/GRID (financed by the Government of Denmark), to be extended in line with the date to be agreed;

(f) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for UNEP's Implementation of the Multilateral Fund Activities, to have an open expiry date;

(g) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Developing Countries (financed by the Government of Sweden), to be extended through 31 December 1995;

(h) INFOTERRA Technical Cooperation Trust Fund (financed by the Government of the United States), to be extended through 31 December 1995;

(i) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Develop and Coordinate the Implementation of the Plan for the Survey, Assessment and Dealing with the Consequences of Environmental Damage Caused by Conflict between Kuwait and Iraq, to be extended through 31 December 1993;

(j) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Promote Technical Cooperation and Assistance in Industrial, Environmental and Raw Material Management (financed by the Government of Sweden), to be extended through 31 December 1995; and

(k) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries to Take Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer under the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol (financed by the Government of Finland), to be extended through 31 December 1993;

15. *Notes and approves* the closure of the following general and technical cooperation trust funds and special account by the Executive Director:

(a) Special Account to Finance the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification;

(b) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for Provision of a Forestry Officer (financed by the Government of the United States);

(c) The United Nations Trust Fund for the Environment Stamp Conservation Fund;

(d) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to the UNEP Ozone Layer Secretariat (financed by the Government of the United States); and

(e) Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to Provide Experts to UNEP to Assist in the Development and Implementation of Policy Response Options Related to Climate Change (financed by the Government of the Netherlands);

16. *Notes and approves* the acceptance by the United Nations Environment Programme of a 137,209 dollar counterpart contribution from Dentsu Incorporated, towards the Earth Day ceremony in 1992;

17. *Notes* the proliferation of trust funds administered by the United Nations Environment Programme and the concern that this may lead to a long-term imbalance in resources and requests the Executive Director to monitor and evaluate the consequences for the operation of the Programme of this proliferation and review the options for checking the proliferation of such funds administered by the United Nations Environment Programme, with a view to submitting proposals for their rationalization and coordination, as appropriate, and report thereon to the Council at its eighteenth regular session.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/40. *The Global Environment Facility*

*The Governing Council,*

*Having considered* the note of the Executive Director on the Global Environment Facility,[74]

1. *Approves* the actions of the Executive Director in guiding the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the pilot phase of the Global Environment Facility;

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[74] UNEP/GC.17/23.

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to cooperate closely and effectively with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme in the successful completion of the pilot phase, bearing in mind the United Nations Environment Programme's particular mandate as the principal body in the United Nations system for environmental matters and the intellectual resources which it can provide;

3. *Notes* the recommendations of chapter 33 of Agenda 21[3] and the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity and the progress achieved by the participants in the Global Environment Facility and the implementing agencies in outlining the restructuring of the Facility;

4. *Also notes* the invitation to the agencies responsible for the implementation of the Global Environment Facility to undertake the operation of a funding arrangement for the Convention on Biological Diversity, in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention, on an interim basis until the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Further notes* that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provides for the Global Environment Facility to be the international entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, on an interim basis, on the condition that the Facility be appropriately restructured, in accordance with the relevant articles of the Convention;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director, without prejudice to the ongoing process of restructuring the Global Environment Facility, to strengthen the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as a full partner with the other implementing agencies of a restructured Facility;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the role played by the United Nations Environment Programme, partly through the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel in the Global Environment Facility and calls for greater transparency in selection of the members of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to explore the possibility of the Facility's support for financing of programme areas in Agenda 21 falling within the mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme in so far as they relate to the programme areas of the Facility, as they will be defined by the restructured Facility;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to include in her Annual Reports an account of the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Global Environment Facility, with regular interim reports to the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/41. *Financial management and structure of the United Nations Environment Programme, including presentation of financial information and the budget of the United Nations Environment Programme*

*Noting* the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on proposals for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations Environment Programme in fulfilling its mandate[75] and, in particular, paragraphs 10-11 thereof, concerning, *inter alia*, the financial management and structure of the United Nations Environment Programme,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, given the need to achieve greater transparency and comprehensibility in the budget format of the Programme, to take steps to revise the present format of the budgets in such a manner that a clear distinction is maintained between programme delivery and administrative overheads, as follows:

(a) A Fund programme activities budget that should include only programme management and delivery, principally in the form of projects;

(b) An administrative and programme support costs budget that should include only those cross-cutting technical and administrative services that support all substantive subprogrammes;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that future budget presentations of the United Nations Environment Programme be harmonized to contain in one document:

(a) Information on actual expenditure against budgets of the previous years and bienniums, revised estimates against approved budgets of the current year and biennium and proposed budgets for the following years and bienniums;

(b) Information on the Fund programme activities budget, the administrative and programme support costs budget and on all allocations from the regular budget of the United Nations to the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to base the future budget presentations on a consolidated report containing all relevant information on the financial situation of the Fund, namely on all sources of income and expenditures, in particular actual resources and use of resources in the previous years and bienniums as well as estimated availability of resources and proposed use of resources for the current and future years and bienniums;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Director to provide definitions and rules for deciding what expenditure should be charged to which budget;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report to and consult with the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a regular basis on progress on implementation of the present decision;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to submit the revised 1994-1995 and proposed 1996-1997 budgets of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Governing Council at its eighteenth session in the new format;

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[75] UNEP/GC.17/L.2 (reproduced in annex IV below, pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision 17/42 of 21 May 1993).

7. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its eighteenth regular session on the implementation of paragraphs 1-6 of the present decision;

8. *Also requests* the Executive Director to inform and consult with the Committee of Permanent Representatives on a quarterly basis on:

(a) The financial situation of the Fund;

(b) The implementation of activities against budgets;

(c) Information on the staffing against established posts, and posts established by projects, trust funds, counterpart and other contributions and consultancies exceeding one month's duration;

(d) Information on all contracts concluded between the United Nations Environment Programme and cooperating agencies, supporting organizations or individuals.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/42. *Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on proposals for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations Environment Programme in fulfilling its mandate*

*The Governing Council,*

*Recalling* paragraph 11 of its decision SS.III/2 of 5 February 1992, by which it, *inter alia*, invited the Committee of Permanent Representatives to study and prepare proposals for the seventeenth session of the Governing Council for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations Environment Programme in fulfilling its mandate,

*Having considered* the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives prepared pursuant to the request contained in decision SS.III/2,[75]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee and the proposals contained therein;

2. *Decides* that the report shall be circulated as an annex to the proceedings of the Council at its seventeenth session.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/43. *Development of the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives*

*The Governing Council,*

*Noting* the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on proposals for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations Environment Programme in fulfilling its mandate and, in particular, paragraphs 8-9 thereof, concerning, *inter alia*, the need to clarify and develop some aspects of the role of the Committee,

1. *Decides* that the Committee of Permanent Representatives shall meet regularly and assess, in cooperation with the Executive Director, the implementation of Governing Council decisions, especially the execution of programme activities and their budgetary implications;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the Committee of Permanent Representatives, sufficiently in advance of its meetings, with whatever information the Committee requires on the matters it decides to put on its agenda. The Committee of Permanent Representatives will make recommendations on these and present them to the Executive Director for consideration and further reporting to it.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

17/44. *Tribute to Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, the former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme*

*The Governing Council,*

*Taking into consideration* the retirement of Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, the former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme,

*Taking further into consideration* his services within the United Nations Environment Programme since its inception, and his tenure of the position of Executive Director for a period of seventeen years,

*Appreciative of* his efforts to consolidate and strengthen the Programme and its activities,

*Taking note* of his achievements in sensitizing the world towards environmental awareness and inclusion and consideration of environmental concerns as a global issue,

*Expresses deepest gratitude and appreciation* to Dr. Tolba for fulfilling his responsibilities as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and for his prominent role in the field of the environment.

*10th meeting*
*21 May 1993*

*Other decision*

*Provisional agenda, date and place of the eighteenth session of the Governing Council*

1. At its 9th plenary meeting, on 20 May 1993, the Governing Council decided, in accordance with rules 1, 2 and 4 of its rules of procedure, to hold its eighteenth session at Nairobi from 15 to 26 May 1995.

2. The Council also decided that the informal consultations among heads of delegations should be held in the afternoon of Sunday, 14 May 1995, the day before the opening of the session.

3. The Council approved the following provisional agenda for the eighteenth session:

1. Opening of the session.

2. Organization of the session:

   (a) Election of officers;

   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session.

3. Credentials of representatives.

4. Policy issues:

   (a) State of the environment;

   (b) Emerging policy issues;

   (c) Coordination and cooperation within the United Nations.

5. Implementation of Agenda 21.

6. Environment and economics.

7. Administrative and budgetary matters.

8. Provisional agenda, date and place of the nineteenth session of the Council.

9. Other business.

10. Adoption of the report.

11. Closure of the session.

*Annex II*

## REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

### INTRODUCTION

1. Under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Lizarralde-Maradey (Venezuela), the Programme Committee held 11 meetings between 10 and 15 May 1993 to consider primarily agenda item 7 (Programme matters, including the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification). As decided by the Council at its 1st plenary meeting, it also considered, in conjunction with the relevant subprogrammes in the proposed programme of Fund activities, those parts of agenda item 6 (a) (Coordination within the United Nations system) covered by the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of UNEP and Habitat (UNEP/GC.17/4) and the parts of the 1991-1992 reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (UNEP/GC.17/11 and UNEP/GC.17/12) dealing with the coordination and follow-up of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, as well as those parts of the Executive Director's report on the future course of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.17/28 and Corr.1) that were pertinent to the issues referred to it.

### I. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

2. At the 1st meeting of the Committee, held on 10 May 1993, the Committee approved the organization of its work, as proposed in document UNEP/GC.17/PC/L.1. At its 2nd meeting, also on 10 May, it approved a number of slight modifications to that document (see UNEP/GC.17/PC/L.1/Corr.1).

3. At the 3rd meeting of the Committee, held on 11 May 1993, Mr. Dick C. de Bruijn (Netherlands) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

4. In considering the items on its work programme, the Committee had before it the following documentation: suggested timetable for the Programme Committee (UNEP/GC.17/PC/L.1); the joint progress report of the Executive Directors of UNEP and Habitat (UNEP/GC.17/4); the report of the Executive Director on programme matters requiring policy guidance from the Council (UNEP/GC.17/5 and Corr.1 and Add.1-5); the report of the Executive Director on implementation and mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term environment programme (SWMTEP) for 1990-1995 (UNEP/GC.17/6); the report of the Executive Director on the proposed programme of Fund activities for the biennium 1994-1995 (with indicative costs) (UNEP/GC.17/7 and Corr.1); the report of the Executive Director on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment (UNEP/GC.17/10 and Corr.1); part II of the 1991 report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session (UNEP/GC.17/11); part II of the 1992 report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session (UNEP/GC.17/12); the report of the Executive Director on implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1991-1992 (UNEP/GC.17/14); the report of the Executive Director on proposals for an update of the list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance (UNEP/GC.17/24); a note by the Executive Director on follow-up to the VIII Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/GC.17/25); the report of the Executive Director on the future course of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/GC.17/28 and Corr.1) and, in particular, part IV, sections A and B thereof; and the report of the Executive Director on evaluation of activities of the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance (UNEP/GC.17/29). It also had before it a number of draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives under agenda item 7 (UNEP/GC.17/L.7 and Add.1). In addition, the following

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information documents were before the Committee: a note by the Executive Director on strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas (UNEP/GC.17/Inf.4); the report of the Executive Director on the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (UNEP/GC.17/Inf.5); the report of the Executive Director on progress of work under the new programme activity centres (UNEP/GC.17/Inf.6); the report of the Executive Director on the World Environment Academy (UNEP/GC.17/Inf.10); and, the report of the Executive Director on implementation of Governing Council decision 16/13 on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (UNEP/GC.17/Inf.12 and Corr.1 (Chinese, English and Spanish only)).

5. In his introductory remarks on the issues before the Committee, the Assistant Executive Director for Environmental Management, Institutions and Capacity-Building and representative of the Executive Director focused attention on the document containing the proposed programme of Fund activities (UNEP/GC.17/7 and Corr.1), the process of its preparation, its structure and presentation, the interlinkages of programmes within the document, the role of UNEP's international partners in its preparation and the attempt made to respond to Agenda 21. He said that, while the proposed programme of Fund activities was the principal document to be considered by the Committee, all the other documents before it formed an integral part of its work programme and many contained the secretariat's proposals for suggested action.

6. The representative of the Executive Director reminded the Committee that UNEP was not an implementing agency and most of its funded activities were carried out by a plethora of institutions and organizations, many within the United Nations system. Therefore, even before preparing a first draft, the secretariat had to undertake consultations within UNEP and with UNEP's partners on the structure and the intended scope of the proposed programme. The intended new structure had also been conveyed to United Nations Headquarters in view of the fact that the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) was in the process of revising the United Nations medium-term plan for the 1992-1997 period. The new structure had, of course, also to take into account the results of UNCED. A further consultative draft had then been prepared by the secretariat taking into account the comments of United Nations agencies, regional commissions, and other key partners like the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The draft had once again been renegotiated with the same partners and then considered by UNEP management for final approval. Those consultations with UNEP's partners were not only crucial but essential in order to have a document that fully accommodated the concerns of Agenda 21, both in substance and with regard to recommendations for structural revision needed for turning UNEP into the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of the environment. Although the structure of the document conspicuously departed from the format used previously, it retained some previous subprogrammes, reorganized others, and introduced new ones, namely, subprogrammes 6 (Environmental economics, accounting and management tools), 7 (Environmental law, institutions and policies), 8 (Toxic chemicals and waste management) and 11 (Capacity-building for environmentally sound and sustainable development), to take into account the additional instructions contained in chapter 38 of Agenda 21.

7. Emphasizing another feature of the UNEP programme, the representative of the Executive Director said that UNEP worked with the United Nations system, other institutions and Governments, and one of the cardinal elements of the new Executive Director's policy was to strengthen these partnerships and forge new alliances in new and creative ways. Each

activity, therefore, reflected the potential partners involved in its implementation. The programme was a closely integrated one and efforts continued to further such integration. There were explicit and implicit linkages. Cross-fertilization was envisaged within UNEP itself before bringing the external partners into play.

8. Recalling that in 1991 the Governing Council at its sixteenth session had approved the creation of an Earthwatch coordinating mechanism within UNEP and called for a reinforcement of the concept of Earthwatch, he said that a separate report on Earthwatch coordination was before the Committee (UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.2). At the same time, Agenda 21, chapter 38, stressed that UNEP should pay increased attention to environmental monitoring and assessment and, in nearly every chapter of Agenda 21, the need for improved environmental information as a service to nations and peoples was highlighted. In strengthening UNEP's assessment capabilities, several new and revised programme elements related to the operation of the Earthwatch secretariat and the production of regular reports on the environment were presented in the proposed programme.

9. Turning to the size of the proposed programme, he recalled that the Governing Council in its decision 16/44 had authorized the Executive Director to prepare a programme based on a $160 million core programme and a $40 million supplementary programme. However, because of the outlook for resources to the Environment Fund, the proposed core programme presented was divided into two - a priority one programme totalling $130 million and priority two programme totalling $30 million - in the event that the Executive Director was unable to obtain a level of funding for the entire core programme. The UNEP secretariat hoped that Governments would make contributions that would enable the secretariat to implement the entire programme, and therefore give UNEP a good start in discharging its share of responsibility for Agenda 21. The proposed distribution of financial resources was in itself a pointer to how UNEP viewed priorities within the subprogrammes.

10. In concluding, the representative of the Executive Director said that, conceptually, the world was moving beyond economic interdependence to ecological interdependence. That was the message UNEP had wished to convey in the documentation before the Council, and it hoped that the actions proposed therein for the next two years would begin the process of attaining the goal of sustainable development from an environmental perspective.

## II. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF FUND ACTIVITIES FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

### A. *Subprogramme 1. Protection of the atmosphere*

11. At the opening of the Committee's discussion of subprogramme 1 (Protection of the atmosphere), the representative of the Executive Director introduced the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Professor Bolin. The Chairman of the Committee then invited Prof. Bolin to speak.

12. Prof. Bolin said that the work programme of the IPCC took into account the possible needs of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), when the latter came into force. In that connection, he noted that a special IPCC report would be completed for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties in mid-1994 or 1995. The new structure of IPCC allowed geographically balanced representation with a 28 member Bureau comprising 12 developed countries, 15 developing countries and 1 eastern European country. The new structure consisted of Working Group I

(Science), Working Group II (Impacts and response options), and Working Group III (Cross-cutting, economic and other issues). The Working Groups were further divided into subgroups which would focus on specific issues related to climate change. As an assessing body, IPCC made no policy recommendations and initiated no projects. IPCC assessed the understanding of the present climate and its projection in the future, including the uncertainties involved.

13. Prof. Bolin observed that as the economies of the developing countries expanded, they would have a greater impact on the global environment. In that context, both North and South had something to learn from each other.

14. Prof. Bolin added that IPCC had focused more sharply on country studies and the development of methodologies. Together with UNEP and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), it was evolving methodologies for nations' inventories of greenhouse gas emissions. Such studies, it was expected, would bring to the forefront important socio-economic issues related to the mitigation of or adaptation to climate change.

15. In conclusion, Prof. Bolin informed the Committee of the Panel's work plan which was aimed at completing the IPCC second assessment report by mid-1995. The assessment would be peer-reviewed by hundreds of scientists from both developed and developing countries. In a second review process Governments would be given the opportunity to bring forth their comments and views. That would further assist the lead authors to clarify the distinction between the scientific assessment and value judgement, which was not the task of IPCC.

16. The representative of the Executive Director, in introducing subprogramme 1, said that statement on the climate agenda adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme (WCP) on 16 April 1993 contained the future priorities of WCP, including those of the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme (WCIRP) implemented by UNEP. Within the identified new thrust requiring studies of climate impact assessments and response strategies to reduce vulnerability, major tasks for WCIRP would be to encourage and assist in climate-related country studies and capacity-building. WCIRP would also be responsive to the needs of IPCC and INC for the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

17. He said that the Intergovernmental Meeting had also focused on programme coordination and future resource needs. The Coordination Committee for WCP was to be strengthened, and an advisory panel drawn from members of executive bodies of the international organizations involved in WCP, including the Governing Council, was to be established to assist the work of the Coordination Committee. It was suggested that the executive heads of the organizations agree on the membership of the advisory panel in order to ensure balanced regional representation. The strengthened coordination process should ensure improved communication and cooperation among the six organizations involved in the WCP, and between the WCP and IPCC, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) and with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development in New York.

18. He added that in cooperation with IPCC, UNEP was developing a common methodology for inventories of sources and sinks of greenhouse gases and testing it through a set of country studies. Similarly, guidelines for greenhouse gas abatement costing studies had been developed and tested in a set of national studies. There was equal need for common guidelines for the assessment of the vulnerability to the environmental and socio-economic impacts of climate change and methodologies to test the effectiveness and socio-economic implications of measures to adapt to climate change. UNEP

was cooperating in the matter with the IPCC expert group on guidelines and was preparing for a project to test and further refine the proposed guidelines and methodologies in another set of country studies.

19. He further added that UNEP was supportive of the INC/FCCC and had contributed staff and information to the INC secretariat. UNEP was developing a joint project with the INC secretariat for an information exchange system which would bring together and share information on climate-related country studies and on relevant abatement technologies.

20. In conclusion, he stated that a memorandum of understanding between UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to use the public information, education and training capabilities of the Information Unit on Climate Change (IUCC) was expected to improve WCP's contribution to endogenous capacity-building.

21. Most representatives who spoke congratulated Prof. Bolin for his excellent stewardship of IPCC since its inception.

22. Several representatives expressed reservations concerning critical linkages between sustainable development and atmospheric changes on the one hand and programmes addressing the issue of climate and energy and climate and economics on the other because they did not address the issue in a comprehensive manner. The same representatives also expressed concern about possible duplication of activities, especially in the areas of energy and economics, under subprogrammes 1 and 9. Two representatives pointed out the need to address enhancement of reservoirs and sinks and the other sources of air pollution affecting human health and the environment. In response, the representative of the Executive Director explained that areas mentioned under more than one subprogramme reflected areas of cooperation and not duplication of activities.

23. Some representatives expressed appreciation for the research work on ozone layer depletion carried out jointly with WMO in support of the implementation of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol.

24. Several representatives said that, although they supported UNEP's programme on the protection of the atmosphere and reaffirmed support for WCP, especially for WCIRP and IPCC, they suggested that funding should be sought from international funds such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF). One representative welcomed the activities of UNEP and other organizations on climate change but stressed that they should not pre-empt decisions that would be taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

25. Two representatives emphasized the linkages between drought, desertification and impacts of climate change. They stressed the need for the respective activities under subprogramme 1 to be pursued in tandem with the ongoing negotiations on a global convention on desertification.

26. A number of representatives supported country studies on inventories of sources and sinks of greenhouse gases, on climate change impacts and on adaptation measures, and emphasized the need to develop common methodologies.

27. The representative of Canada informed the Committee of his Government's willingness to cooperate with UNEP on developing common methodologies for impact assessment and adaptation measures and said that a first meeting of an expert group on this topic could be held in Canada.

28. A number of representatives noted with appreciation the achievements and future directions of WCIRP and strongly supported the continuation of the programme.

29. Some representatives emphasized that the output of activities 1.1.2, 1.1.3 and 1.1.4 should avoid policy-oriented recommendations, and should address both positive and negative impacts in a generic way; furthermore, it should be comprehensive in addressing all sources and sinks of greenhouse gases, and both adaptation and mitigation response options.

30. Many representatives stressed the need for close coordination among United Nations agencies in order to avoid duplication of effort. Several representatives explicitly welcomed the coordinating mechanism established by the Intergovernmental Meeting on WCP.

31. One representative highlighted the strong linkages between protection of the atmosphere and other UNEP subprogrammes.

32. One representative, in strongly supporting the climate-related activities in the subprogramme, especially IPCC and climate-related country studies, also suggested according less priority to activities 1.1.4 and 1.1.8. While important, they might be supported by sources other than those of UNEP. In particular, activity 1.1.8 could continue under current funding arrangements.

33. Several representatives expressed reservations on UNEP's public information programme on climate matters and some noted that the allocations for it were too high.

34. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) referred to the cooperation between UNEP and WMO in many areas, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Global Atmosphere Watch network, the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) which contributed to Earthwatch, the Background Air Pollution Monitoring Network (BAPMoN) and the Information Unit on Climate Change (IUCC). He mentioned the activities under the World Climate Programme where WMO had the lead, although the Programme was conducted in close cooperation with UNESCO/IOC, the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), FAO and UNEP. Drawing attention to the outcome of the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme, he said that the first steps had already been taken towards the establishment of an advisory panel as specified in the Climate Agenda adopted at the Meeting. He reiterated the need for resources for atmospheric observing programmes carried out in cooperation with UNEP.

35. The representative of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO also emphasized cooperation with UNEP in various areas related to the protection of the atmosphere and said that IOC would welcome an increased involvement. He elaborated further on the work carried out under the World Climate Research Programme together with WMO and ICSU concerning the role of the ocean in the global carbon cycle and the El Niño phenomenon. The results of those studies and observations were of crucial importance for the work of IPCC and WCIRP.

36. In response to the discussion, the representative of the Executive Director said that Governments had endorsed the new directions for WCP at the Intergovernmental Meeting on the World Climate Programme, including WCIRP. The new directions responded directly to Agenda 21. He said that, although the climate programme was by definition global, most of its constituent parts served the specific needs of developing countries.

37. He pointed out that the atmosphere programme did not only concern itself with climate change but addressed the question of climate variability in the form of droughts, severe storms and floods which maintained the poverty spiral in the developing South. The UNEP Climate Unit's work on drought-preparedness, through regional and national workshops in developing countries had resulted in a guidebook on drought-preparedness for developing countries. He noted in that regard that GEF resources were only available for climate-change-related activities with global benefits and not for the climate-variability-related programmes.

38. Turning to UNEP's public information programme on climate matters undertaken jointly by the UNEP Information and Public Affairs Branch, the IUCC and the UNEP Climate Unit, he said that he felt that it represented a model of information dissemination. In response to the observation by some representatives that the resources allocated to IUCC were too high, he observed that they were essential as IUCC activities included seminars, fact sheets, brochures and books explaining climate and its impacts, risks and range of responses, and, in the absence of national counterpart funds for IUCC, UNEP had to underwrite the programme costs.

B. *Subprogramme 2. Environmental management of freshwater resources*

39. Introducing subprogramme 2 (Environmental management of freshwater resources), the Assistant Executive Director for Environmental Management, Institutions and Capacity-Building and representative of the Executive Director said that the general policy of the subprogramme was to promote the sustainable development of freshwater resources, including: (a) development of integrated management action plans for inland water systems; (b) technical and institutional capacity-building, and (c) professional training and education. The subprogramme also derived priorities from the relevant portions of Agenda 21, particularly chapter 18.

40. All representatives who took the floor on this subprogramme expressed strong support for the subprogramme, its integrated approach, and its component activities, and felt that it should be given high priority. Several representatives particularly identified safe drinking-water supply and sanitation as priority issues within the subprogramme, and some of those representatives suggested increasing the funds allocated to the areas, particularly under activities 2.1.4 and 2.1.5. Two representatives, however, suggested that the enhancement of these activities might be achieved by the reallocation of some funds within the subprogramme itself.

41. The representative of the Netherlands informed the Committee that the Netherlands Minister of Environment intended to organize an international ministerial conference on drinking water and the environment. The conference was planned to be held in the Netherlands in early 1994.

42. One representative stressed the need to link more closely the related issues of environmental management of freshwater resources and human settlements.

43. Several representatives stressed the importance of groundwater resources as an important component of their national freshwater policies, and felt that the funds allocated to activity 2.1.5 were inadequate and should therefore be increased.

44. Several representatives pointed out that their freshwater resources were threatened by aquatic plants of various kinds, and stressed the serious need to address that problem under the subprogramme.

45. The representative of Japan welcomed the establishment of the United Nations International Environment Technology Centre, which covered transfer of technology in the field of management of freshwater resources, especially for the developing countries.

46. The representative of WHO emphasized the need for coordination on water-related issues among the organizations of the United Nations system and suggested that a more formal arrangement between some key agencies might be entered into to facilitate effective coordination.

47. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) offered the cooperation of ECA in implementing those parts of the freshwater subprogramme that affected Africa.

### C. *Subprogramme 3. Environmental management of terrestrial ecosystems and their resources*

48. Introducing subprogramme 3 (Environmental management of terrestrial ecosystems and their resources), the Assistant Executive Director for Environmental Management, Institutions and Capacity-Building and representative of the Executive Director said that the subprogramme was a critical cluster in UNEP's work. The Committee's discussion would focus on all elements of the subprogramme except desertification control, which would be discussed at a later stage. The cluster covered soils and agricultural chemicals (programme element 3.1), forests and other ecosystems (programme element 3.3), biodiversity and biotechnology (programme elements 3.4 and 3.5) and lithosphere (programme element 3.6). Taken together, those elements interrelated with water resources, which the Committee had just discussed, and with Earthwatch - in the various assessments jointly planned and carried out. They were also the core of management, and substantially contributed to capacity-building for sustainable development. In the case of biodiversity, the subprogramme, supported by environmental law among others, had spearheaded global efforts that brought about the important Convention on Biological Diversity. At the same time, many countries were undertaking case-studies at national level on their biodiversity resources. Other major accomplishments had been the report *Caring for the Earth* sponsored by UNEP and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), among others, and UNEP's many conservation efforts at preserving endangered species - whether elephants or rhinos. Taken together, the cluster was of crucial importance in efforts towards sustainable development as it addressed a cross-section of Agenda 21.

49. The representative of the Executive Director said that, in the forthcoming years, the subprogramme would concentrate efforts in the following priority areas:

(a) Maintenance of soil productivity, prevention of land and soil degradation and stimulation of land and soil conservation;

(b) Integrated land-use planning and management of land resources;

(c) Combating deforestation and enhancing the protection and sustainable use of all forests;

(d) Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

(e) Making wildlands, wildlife and protected areas management a more effective instrument of sustainable development;

(f) Safe uses of biotechnologies using microorganisms and other biological agents;

(g) Monitoring and control of the impacts of agrochemicals on natural and man-made ecosystems with special reference to human health and safety in agrochemical uses.

50. Those areas synthesized the key components for integrated environmental management of terrestrial ecosystems. The economy of many countries was based on their natural resources contained in terrestrial ecosystems. Their soils, agricultural lands, forests, fisheries, biodiversity, genetic resources and waters made up their principal stocks of economic capital. The sustainable use of those resources might grow with more advanced scientific knowledge and with new technological opportunities. The obstacles to sustainability were not, however, mainly technical; they were economic, social, political and were increased by policy and institutional failures. Consequently, new approaches based on scientific knowledge were needed for achieving a more effective meshing of conservation and sustainable utilization issues with economic, social, political, institutional, technological and ecological factors.

51. In conclusion, he said that the main challenges for the future implementation of the subprogramme on terrestrial ecosystems would consist of making the environmental management of freshwater resources and of terrestrial ecosystems and their resources an important part of, and fully integrated with, social and economic activities to ensure that environmental activities and economic growth objectives became mutually supportive.

52. Opening the Committee's discussion on subprogramme 3, the Chairman said that the strategy of the subprogramme was to catalyze actions approved by the Council, and to encourage and support Governments and regional organizations. It did not attempt to duplicate the work carried out by other specialized organizations within their sphere of action. The subprogramme was designed as a consolidated group of terrestrial ecosystems so that it would be inadvisable to delete individual parts. Of course, more emphasis might be given to some parts than to others. The financial resources proposed were indicative and the actual amounts would be those approved by the Fund Committee.* Finally, he said that time did not allow the Committee to undertake an exhaustive analysis of the issues. The aim was to seek the Council's views on the subjects that would be of most interest for Governments and regions.

### 1. *General observations on priority-setting*

53. In their interventions on subprogramme 3, several representatives stressed the need to establish priorities within the subprogramme for the biennium. The debate centred on the issue of what UNEP could do within its mandate without duplicating efforts of other United Nations agencies as well as what it could do with competence. Discussion also centred round what constituted priority and what criteria should be used to establish the priorities.

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* The representative of Brazil (on behalf of the Group of 77) and China subsequently introduced a draft decision on the subject of allocation of funds (see paras.312-313) below.

### 2. *Programme element 3.1. Soils, agricultural lands and agrochemicals*

54. The Assistant Executive Director for Environmental Management, Institutions and Capacity-Building and representative of the Executive Director introduced programme element 3.1 (Soils, agricultural lands and agrochemicals), highlighting its interlinkage with other subprogrammes, and its consistency with chapters 6, 10 and 32 of Agenda 21 pertaining to sustainable development. He added that the programme element contributed to worldwide efforts in preventing soil degradation, encouraging soil conservation, and promoting proper land-use and management of fragile ecosystems and marginal lands, as well as reducing the negative impacts of agrochemicals.

55. While many representatives expressed support for the programme element, two representatives expressed the view that low priority should be given to it.

56. One representative said that although a lot of good work had been done under that programme element, he agreed with some other representatives in according the programme element a moderate level of priority. He noted that activities such as integrated pest management could be undertaken by FAO. He added that UNEP could play a pivotal role in collating information, making global assessments, and providing guidelines for national assessments in the areas of soil degradation, natural resources inventories, global and national soils databases, and stressed ecosystems.

57. One representative stated that the whole problem of agrochemical pollution was of high importance in his country. He also emphasized that pollution by agrochemicals must continue to be assessed and monitored as part of continuing efforts towards sustainable agricultural development.

58. Several representatives mentioned that land degradation, including desertification, was a high priority for regional cooperation and for their national programmes.

59. Several representatives said that priority should be given to promoting sustainable systems in fragile soils/lands, as well as to supporting the activities of the AMCEN Soils and Fertilizers Network.

60. Other representatives identified programmes on soils, agricultural lands and agrochemicals as being particularly important, while some representatives considered that high priority should be given to the implementation of national soils policies for sustainable land-use practices. Other representatives supported activities aimed at soil protection and desertification control.

61. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) said his organization was looking forward to increased cooperation with UNEP in the field of soils, agricultural lands and agrochemicals and in other programme elements of the subprogramme on terrestrial ecosystems. He also expressed the hope that the mutual consultation which had characterized collaboration in this area would be enhanced and that there would be no duplication of efforts.

### 3. *Programme element 3.2. Arid lands and desertification*

62. Introducing programme element 3.2 (Arid lands and desertification), the Assistant Executive Director for Environment Management, Institutions and Capacity-Building and representative of the Executive Director and the Director of the Desertification Control Programme Activity Centre reported on "the fresh approach" being taken by the programme in the light of the adoption of Agenda 21 and the renewed global interest in the problem.

63. The Director gave an overview of current UNEP activities in all regions and drew attention to the cooperative arrangements and activities that were under way with various international, regional and subregional organizations. He outlined the support being given to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Convention on Desertification (INCD) and to the regional and national case-studies initiated by INCD. He outlined the particular concern of UNEP that 900 million people were at risk from desertification and emphasized the importance of gaining world-wide recognition of the social and economic impacts of desertification, a goal that was supported by many activities that had been planned and those under way in cooperation with other United Nations agencies. He pointed out that UNEP's catalytic and coordinating role was small compared with the need for a concerted global commitment to tackle that global social problem that affected so many of the poorest of the world, particularly women.

64. Commenting on the Executive Director's report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification (PACD) 1991-1992 (UNEP/GC.17/14) and the introductory statement of the Director of UNEP's Desertification Control Programme Activity Centre (DC/PAC), the majority of the representatives who spoke expressed their strong support for the programme element and several of them made reference also to specific activities which were of particular interest to their countries.

65. Recognizing that desertification was a global problem, many representatives emphasized the importance of UNEP coordinating its activities with specific United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, (ESCWA), while others pointed to the need for international collaboration within and outside the United Nations system in more general terms.

66. Several representatives stressed the need for cooperation with regional organizations such as the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development (IGADD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS), as well as with multilateral and bilateral donor agencies.

67. A number of representatives called for support for the programme of the Arab Council of Ministers responsible for the Environment in the field of combating desertification and for provision of technical support for those programmes, and the need for more financial resources for the activities listed in programme element 3.2, including support for more pilot projects on combating desertification in countries threatened by it, and the dissemination of the results of those projects to other countries.

68. Several representatives referred to existing cooperative arrangements with UNEP, which reinforced the role of UNEP's role as a coordinating agency. One representative emphasized the particularly important role UNEP must play in the struggle against desertification. While recognizing that there should be close cooperation between UNEP and FAO in the field, he asked that it be borne in mind that the mission entrusted to FAO concerned chiefly agriculture and food, and not combating desertification.

69. Many representatives strongly emphasized the role of UNEP in supporting the Convention on Desertification. One representative, however, cautioned against prejudging the decisions of the 1994 conference. One representative requested further details on UNEP-INCD cooperation, but emphasized that it should not be at the expense of UNEP's regular activities in the field of desertification control.

70. The Chairman of INCD expressed his satisfaction at the statements regarding INCD-UNEP collaboration and his appreciation for the support already provided.

71. The need, reflected in documents and past evaluations, to focus strongly on the social and economic aspects of desertification including the problems of population movements was emphasized by several representatives and one representative pointed to the growing problem created by refugees whose arrival had had a severe effect on forest resources and had intensified the desertification process.

72. Several representatives supported the continuing validity of PACD at least until the adoption of any alternative approaches by the Convention. One representative welcomed the reorientation of UNEP's work following dissolution of the Special Account and the discontinuation of DESCON. He stressed that UNEP should continue to assume the lead in creating the long-term perspective essential to the resolution of desertification problems.

73. Two representatives recommended that henceforth chapter 12 of Agenda 21, with its six programme areas, should form the basis for all those involved in combating desertification, including UNEP and INCD.

74. Reference was made by one representative to the fact that desertification had been incorporated in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in so far as it related to the existing four criteria, but several representatives felt that that might not be enough. One representative expressed satisfaction that the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) had already submitted project proposals in that context to GEF.

75. One representative pointed to the impact of desertification on the loss of biodiversity.

76. The representative of Nigeria said his country would be willing to participate in an envisaged global desertification monitoring system with reference sites or transects.

77. Several representatives urged UNEP to develop the human resources of the Desertification Control Programme Activity Centre (DC/PAC) in order to provide more assistance to countries affected by desertification.

78. One representative said there was already a heavy programme for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in 1993, and most or all of the available expertise would be occupied, so he questioned the usefulness of a DESCON session in 1993, observing that it might be better postponed.

79. The representative of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) noted with appreciation the remarks made about his organization, UNEP and the collaborative activities under the joint venture. Reference was made to UNSO programme priorities, its efforts to harmonize efforts in the field of desertification control, and its role in assisting African countries in their preparations for UNCED and now for the INCD process.

80. The representative of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) informed the Committee about his organization's work in the field of drought and desertification, and especially about the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), the drought monitoring centres and the ongoing joint UNEP-WMO review of the interactions between desertification and climate. He further mentioned WMO's support for INCD.

81. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) welcomed UNEP's fresh approach towards integrated rural development in the drylands and socio-economic issues, including

those related to poverty. He stressed the need to harmonize international efforts in the field of desertification control to avoid duplication and a waste of resources. He also mentioned the collaborative programme with UNEP under which FAO implemented PACD activities in Latin America.

82. The representative of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) commended UNEP for the support it had given to African countries regarding the preparations for INCD.

83. The representative of the Commission of the European Communities gave details of his organization's activities in preventing dryland degradation, and expressed his satisfaction with the INCD process, which would continue to be supported by the Commission.

4. *Programme element 3.3. Forests and other ecosystems*

84. Many representatives commented favourably on programme element 3.3 (Forests and other ecosystems), one stating that it was vital to the whole cluster of elements in subprogramme 3. A number, however, cautioned UNEP against focusing on tropical forests and requested it to look at all types of forests, as called for in Agenda 21. Some representatives also requested UNEP to reinforce activities in the tundra, wetlands and mountains as part of its other ecosystem activities.

85. Many representatives drew attention to the important role UNEP could play in the field of forest ecosystems management, particularly environmental management aspects of forest ecosystems, in collaboration and coordination with other agencies working in that area (FAO, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)). It was felt that that would bring out the coordinating and catalytic role of UNEP.

86. One representative observed that UNEP should make its position and approaches on environmental management of forest ecosystems clear and should carry out its catalytic and coordinating role, working with other agencies and institutions that had specific activities in the field.

87. One representative said that land-use and forestry could be an issue for UNEP to consider in cooperation with other agencies in order to pinpoint environmental management aspects for sustainable use of forests. Others stressed that UNEP should make use of its comparative advantage in the field of forest ecosystems management, and in monitoring and assessment.

88. One representative pointed out that some of the proposed activities in the forests programme element could be scaled down as FAO was already doing considerable work in that field.

89. Several representatives raised the issue of State sovereignty. They considered that detailed systematic assessment of forest ecosystems would infringe upon the sovereignty of States. One representative expressed serious concern that quantitative assessment using remote-sensing techniques was leading to qualitative assessment on site. In that respect, monitoring should be country-driven and the importance of capacity-building in that area should be stressed.

90. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) indicated that he was pleased to hear the secretariat state that UNEP was not an implementing agency. He also said that his organization would like to cooperate with UNEP in areas in which FAO had a comparative advantage.

91. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) expressed his organization's readiness to cooperate with UNEP in programme element 3.3, particularly in connection with UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB).

5. *Programme element 3.4. Biological diversity*

92. Speaking on programme element 3.4 (Biological diversity), the Executive Director commented on actions taken by UNEP in accordance with the resolutions adopted in May 1992 by the Nairobi Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and as a follow-up to the signing of the Convention at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as described in her report on the subject (UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.4). She stressed that it was important to ensure the success of the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity (ICCBD).

93. Referring to paragraph 4 of her report (UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.4), she reported that representatives of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) had had useful informal discussions with a number of signatories of the Convention on Biological Diversity to further mutual thinking on GEF as the interim financial mechanism for the Convention. GEF had also been invited to the meeting of Panel 3 (see UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.4, para. 10) in Montreal and had held discussions with the co-chairpersons of the Panel who would also represent UNEP at the Beijing meeting of GEF. Regarding paragraph 5 of her report, she stated that every occasion to urge countries to ratify the Convention had been seized.

94. Regarding the progress made on the establishment of the Interim Secretariat, she said that further to action already taken by her predecessor she had held discussions with the Governments of Switzerland and Spain. Accordingly, she had agreed that the Interim Secretariat would stay on in Geneva. It was agreed that criteria for establishing the permanent Secretariat should be transparent and should be determined by the Conference of the Parties. To that end, the Executive Director intended to prepare a draft list of criteria to facilitate consideration by the Conference of the Parties. She also stated that one donor country had provided the services of a special adviser to help in the work of setting up the Interim Secretariat.

95. The Executive Director pointed out that, pending approval by the Governing Council, the first meeting of the ICCBD was tentatively scheduled for 20-24 September 1993 in Geneva and she sought guidance on the formation of the Bureau for the ICCBD. The three options were as follows, although it was her view that the last option would be the most appropriate:

(a) To reinstate the former Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Convention on Biological Diversity, but that was not feasible;

(b) To request the current session of the Governing Council to set up the Bureau, but that appeared to have procedural problems;

(c) To leave ICCBD to set up its Bureau during its first meeting in September 1993.

96. With regard to paragraphs 9 and 10 of her report, she expressed her gratitude to Canada, Costa Rica, Norway and Sweden for their support in the follow-up activities. She also thanked all members of the panels for their contribution and indicated that the reports of the panels would be made available to ICCBD together with a note by the Executive Director. Finally, she expressed her gratitude to Ambassador V. Sanchez for keeping up the momentum of the follow-up work.

97. All representatives who spoke on programme element 3.4 expressed their appreciation of and strong support for UNEP's activities and for the programme on biological diversity, and they commended UNEP for its work in the area. There was general agreement that the programme element should receive high priority and that UNEP had done very valuable work over the years, had fulfilled its catalytic role and should continue to do so. Two representatives requested increased budgetary allocations for the programme element.

98. Many representatives expressed support for the early implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its entry into force as soon as possible.

99. Many representatives indicated that their Governments were in the process of ratifying the Convention. One representative stated that his Government had ratified the Convention, had drawn up a national biodiversity programme and was in the process of establishing a coordinating group. Another representative stated that his Government had announced its intention to sign the Convention and to work with other countries on issues relevant to the Convention.

100. Several representatives stressed the need for immediate action in the interim period until the Convention came into force. They supported the establishment of an Intergovernmental Committee on the Convention on Biological Diversity (ICCBD), and the convening of its first meeting in September 1993. Some representatives mentioned the importance of establishing the Interim Secretariat and one of those representatives also felt that it was important to set up an interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) as well. One representative stressed that interim arrangements should be discussed immediately so that the programme could start. One representative said that the cost of servicing those bodies should be recognized by the Governing Council. Another representative requested UNEP to organize annual meetings to estimate the annual financial requirements of the Convention.

101. One representative expressed concern about the location of the Interim Secretariat in Geneva and stressed that the criteria for the location of the permanent Secretariat should be very transparent and that the contents of all the offers to host it should be published in advance. He also proposed that paragraph 7 of document UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.4 should be replaced by the following: "The former Executive Director of UNEP took the decision concerning the Interim Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Governments of Spain and Switzerland offered to host the Interim Secretariat, and the decision was taken to locate the Secretariat in Geneva provisionally until the first meeting of the Contracting Parties." Regarding the last paragraph of the section on suggested action on page 4 of the same document, he said that there should either be a reference to Spain and all the candidatures submitted or the paragraph should be deleted. With regard to the Interim Secretariat of the Convention, he requested that all the candidatures submitted should be published, in accordance with the principle of transparency, and should be issued as an official document. The representative of Kenya reiterated his Government's offer to co-locate the secretariat of the Biodiversity Convention with UNEP headquarters in Nairobi in line with Governing Council decision 16/1 of 31 May 1991, which called for the strengthening of UNEP headquarters and which was further reinforced by Agenda 21, under chapter 38, paragraphs 21 and 22. The representative suggested that the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity should have this in mind during its consideration of the issue.

102. One representative suggested the desirability of a joint FAO/ICCBD task force to develop options for the intergovernmental bodies concerned for the conservation of plant genetic resources. Another representative mentioned the need for consultation between FAO and UNEP on the relationship between the Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Another representative urged UNEP to act closely with FAO with regard to Plant Genetic Resources.

103. Several representatives mentioned the need to strengthen UNEP's role in GEF and two representatives said that linkages between the GEF and the Convention on Biological Diversity should be established.

104. Two representatives supported UNEP activities for the preparation of biodiversity country case-studies. One representative said that UNEP should support more detailed studies on the costs and benefits of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, together with the preparation of national strategies and action plans with a view to incorporating the biodiversity concerns in national planning. Another representative stressed that UNEP should continue to undertake activities complementary to and supportive of the Convention, for example the preparation of biodiversity strategies and action plans. One representative commended UNEP for supporting AMCEN biodiversity programmes and hoped that further support would be provided.

105. Several representatives supported the conservation of endangered species, and one of those representatives, stressing the importance of urgent measures for the conservation of the African elephant and the African and Asian rhinoceros populations, strongly endorsed the proposed action for elephant and rhinoceros conservation set out in document UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.4. The same representative stated that ongoing activities in elephant and rhinoceros conservation should be continued by UNEP in accordance with their Appendix 1 to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) status. Another representative stressed the need for support in implementing national action plans already formulated. The same representative, expressing particular support for the conservation of the rhinoceros, said that in his country the rhinoceros population had declined from 20,000 in 1970 to 400 in 1993, which was very serious. He urged donors to assist in the conservation of that species and other species such as the elephant, whose population had also declined in other parts of Africa. He further stated that the conservation of the diversity of wildlife was very important for the survival of humankind and proposed the preparation of action plans for that purpose.

106. Another representative expressed concern about the decline in the population of rhinoceroses and elephants. His country had ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity in January 1993 and had promoted national laws and regulations to protect the diversity of wild animals and plants. Recently his Government had considered other effective measures to protect those endangered species. He expressed the hope that UNEP would be able to help countries encountering problems in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, assist them to find solutions and provide technical assistance.

107. One representative stated that his country expected to ratify the CITES Convention in the near future while another representative said that his country had gazetted national parks and other protected areas.

108. One representative expressed the view that UNEP's work on forests should be confined to biological diversity conservation and sustainable use.

109. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) said that FAO looked forward to increased cooperation and coordination with UNEP on biodiversity issues.

110. The representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said that UNESCO would continue to cooperate with UNEP in strengthening the Man and the Biosphere programme and implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly the scientific and training aspect, within the mandate of UNESCO. He stressed the importance of biosphere reserves, which were protected areas and thus facilitated research, monitoring, conservation and training with the participation of local people. He said that the international network of biosphere reserves would make an important contribution to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

### 6. *Programme element 3.5. Microbial resources and related biotechnologies*

111. Several representatives stressed that programme element 3.5 (Microbial resources and related technologies) must be given high priority in view of the emphasis given to it by Agenda 21 and the role of UNEP in that area. Two representatives emphasized the importance of the programme element, particularly the role of UNEP in enhancing safety issues in biotechnology, in collaboration with FAO, UNIDO and WHO. One representative suggested that it be given moderate priority, while another pointed out that some elements of the programme were better dealt with by other agencies such as FAO.

112. One representative stressed the need to give equal importance to conservation and utilization of biological diversity, including the technology needed to that effect and two others urged UNEP to draw up a programme or mechanism for the transfer of biotechnology to developing countries.

113. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) called for closer cooperation on biotechnology matters, in particular, within the wider framework of initiatives on the establishment of centres for technology transfer.

### 7. *Programme element 3.6. Lithosphere*

114. One representative, while commenting on the activities to be carried out under programme element 3.6 (Lithosphere), felt that its priority should be to support research on biogeochemical cycles (activity 3.6.1), since no other United Nations agency seemed to be doing that. In his delegation's view, an equally important activity was to support international research efforts on environmental management of groundwater resources (activity 3.6.4). He stressed, however, that activities 3.6.2, 3.6.3, and 3.6.5, pertaining to the environmental impacts of mining and oil extraction, should receive lower priority. Those issues were competently taken care of by other international agencies, and were also covered by impact assessment studies carried out under other UNEP subprogrammes.

115. Some representatives, in trying to prioritize the programme elements of subprogramme 3, attributed lower priority to the lithosphere.

116. One representative stated that providing advice and support measures to governmental regulatory bodies on how to reduce water pollution caused by mining activities (3.6.2) were especially important, due to the links with human health issues. The connection and complementary support of the Lithosphere programme element to subprogramme 2 (Environmental management of freshwater resources) was noted.

117. The Assistant Executive Director for Environmental Management, Institutions and Capacity-Building and representative of the Executive Director referred the Committee to the table on page 8 of the proposed programme of Fund activities showing the financial allocations to subprogrammes/programme elements. He explained that some programme elements such as the lithosphere, which were already receiving a low level of funding, were nevertheless carrying on with activities started in earlier bienniums, and also feeding into priority areas. Therefore, one would have to look into the respective activities planned under those programme elements in detail if their usefulness was to be assessed.

118. Summing up the discussions on subprogramme 3, the Director, Terrestrial Ecosystems Branch, expressed his gratitude for the valuable comments made by the Chairman and various delegations, which gave the secretariat a much clearer idea of the views of delegations regarding UNEP activities related to the environmental management of terrestrial ecosystems and their resources.

119. Reaffirming the technical and conceptual criteria that guided the secretariat in designing subprogramme 3, he said that the subprogramme did not attempt to be an isolated sector. Therefore, none of its programme elements (soils, forests, biodiversity, biotechnologies and lithosphere) proposed activities that were not linked with other UNEP subprogrammes. He stressed that United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and regional bodies - the eventual cooperating agencies responsible for programme implementation - had been involved in its formulation, thus avoiding any type of duplication right from the activity design stage.

120. He pointed out that the subprogramme used a holistic approach to ecosystems and that it made up a consolidated whole with the freshwater programme, as indicated in paragraph 18.1 of Agenda 21. He stressed that the subprogramme incorporated in its proposed activities and in the linkages established the additional priorities for UNEP set forth in chapter 38 of Agenda 21 and concerning support measures for the environmental management of ecosystems, such as economic instruments, capacity-building, research, training, and environmental impact assessment.

121. In conclusion, he said that the subprogramme, which incorporated the Agenda 21 policy directions, would concentrate on integrated environmental management of terrestrial ecosystems with a view to supporting the achievement of sustainable development, particularly in certain key productive sectors related to natural resources, such as, *inter alia*, forests, freshwater, soils, agricultural lands, and biodiversity. UNEP could accomplish a specific task to those ends and catalyse activities with other organizations in an area to which there was still insufficient attention paid.

### D. *Subprogramme 4. Environmental management of oceans and coastal areas management*

122. Introducing subprogramme 4 (Environmental management of oceans and coastal areas management) and its three components - regional marine environments, the global marine environment, and living marine resources, the Assistant Executive Director for Environment Management, Institutions and Capacity-Building and representative of the Executive Director emphasized the importance of the regional seas programme under which programmes on integrated coastal areas management, land-based sources of pollution and climate change were implemented. He underlined the subprogramme's contribution towards the preparation of the 1995 Conference on Land-Based Sources of Pollution and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in April 1994. Finally, he stressed that the subprogramme was strengthened by

collaboration with other United Nations and international organizations concerned by the protection and development of the marine and coastal environment.

123. All representatives who spoke supported the subprogramme, especially the regional seas programme, and highlighted the importance of integrated management of marine and coastal areas at the regional level.

124. They expressed the view that the highest priority should be given to programme element 4.1 (Regional marine environments). They underlined the need for cooperation between UNEP and other United Nations agencies in implementing that programme element. Representatives of African Governments called upon donor States to provide funding in order to bring regional programmes and their implementation in line with the provisions of Agenda 21.

125. Several representatives supported the financial strengthening of the regional seas programme.

126. With respect to programme element 4.2 (The global marine environment), many representatives laid particular emphasis on the need to address the issue of land-based sources of pollution as provided in Agenda 21, chapter 17, programme area B. They noted that the regional approach was the most effective manner of dealing with that problem.

127. All representatives who spoke commended UNEP on its rapid action in following up the issue of land-based sources of pollution immediately after UNCED. In that connection, the representative of Canada stated that his Government offered to host an expert meeting in the first quarter of 1994 on the review of the Montreal Guidelines for the Protection of the Marine Environment from land-based sources of pollution. The representative of the United States of America informed the Committee of his Government's offer to host the final intergovernmental meeting on this issue in Washington in 1995, making available the necessary additional funds and providing interpretation in all official languages.

128. The representative of the Netherlands informed the Committee of his Government's offer to host the World Coast Conference in The Hague from 1 to 5 November 1993.

129. One representative considered that the results of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the World Coast Conference to be held in the Netherlands in November 1993 should be taken into account at the experts' meeting to be hosted by Canada.

130. Several representatives supported the role of UNEP in the preparatory process for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

131. On the suggestion of one representative, the Director of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Programme Activity Centre (OCA/PAC) said he would arrange a small meeting of interested Governments the following day to discuss the modalities of the implementation of the provision in Agenda 21 concerning land-based sources of marine pollution.

132. One representative asked why it was proposed that English should be the only working language for the regional meetings on the surveys of land-based sources of pollution.

133. Several representatives expressed their concern at the apparent slow response on the part of donor States and UNEP in providing the necessary funding for the effective implementation of the Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African region. One representative requested the secretariat to invite donor agencies/Governments to the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee and the third Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Abidjan Convention, which should also review the objectives of the Plan of Action so as to harmonize them with the corresponding objectives of Agenda 21.

134. Many representatives who spoke supported the application of integrated coastal area management.

135. Two representatives urged inclusion of socio-economic aspects in integrated coastal area management programmes.

136. One representative referred to the importance of considering coastal populations in regional programmes, while another representative expressed the view that industrialization of coastal zones created considerable environmental problems. One other representative urged coordination between UNEP and Habitat on the urban aspects of environmental management in coastal areas.

137. One representative proposed that the recommendations of the policy conference on integrated coastal zone management in Eastern Africa, including the island States, recently held in Arusha, Tanzania, be taken into consideration when implementing the Eastern African Action Plan.

138. One representative also emphasized that there was a need to separate the submerged and terrestrial components of the coastal zone.

139. Several representatives supported UNEP's initiatives on climate change and sea level rise.

140. Two representatives expressed concern about accidents at sea and urged enhanced cooperation with the International Maritime Organization.

141. One representative expressed doubt about UNEP's mandate on coordination of global programmes in the context of the subprogramme and stressed the need for some restructuring of UNEP's oceans programme.

142. Another representative proposed that the name of the subprogramme should be changed to include semi-enclosed and enclosed seas.

143. Another representative urged UNEP to pay attention to the environmental impacts of exploration and exploitation of non-living marine resources.

144. The representative of Japan expressed serious concern about the dumping of radioactive nuclear waste by the former Soviet Union into seas in the Far East, and suggested the possibility of environmental cooperation with the Russian Federation on that issue.

145. Responding to his remarks, the representative of the Russian Federation expressed his country's positive attitude with regard to the taking of steps aimed at solving that technical problem.

146. The representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) expressed support for the regional seas programme and stressed the importance of the linkage between global and regional conventions and

action plans. He expressed the hope that cooperation between IMO and UNEP could be strengthened through the exercise of UNEP's catalytic role in capacity-building activities.

147. The representatives of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Commission of the European Communities and the Advisory Committee On Protection of the Sea expressed support for the regional seas programme and continued cooperation with UNEP.

### E. *Subprogramme 5: Environmental health, settlements and human welfare*

148. The Committee considered subprogramme 5 (Environmental health, settlements and human welfare) in conjunction with subprogramme 8 (Toxic chemicals and waste management). The Assistant Executive Director for Environment Management, Institutions and Capacity-building and the Assistant Executive Director for Earthwatch Coordination and Environmental Assessment introduced the subprogrammes briefly.

149. The Executive Director, commenting on those parts of subprogramme 5 which dealt with settlements, said that she had eagerly accepted the challenge to increase and enhance cooperation between UNEP and UNCHS (Habitat) when she assumed responsibility for leading both organizations. She stressed that, in bringing both organizations under common direction, it should not be implied that Habitat was being merged with - or submerged under - UNEP. She further stressed that human settlements issues and environmental issues were important in their own right and each should continue with its own distinct programmatic focus. She reiterated the message she had conveyed to the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session, namely, that cooperation between the two organizations would result in synergy and in improving efficiency and cost effectiveness.

150. She indicated that some changes had already been made in order to achieve the increased efficiency inherent in common administration and more changes would soon follow. She suggested that one approach would be to establish joint UNEP/UNCHS (Habitat) task forces in areas such as transportation, water, energy, etc. She welcomed the cooperation established between the information units of the two secretariats and looked forward to further cooperation in other areas.

151. During the discussion on subprogramme 5, there was a common consensus that it would be necessary to streamline the activities of UNEP and UNCHS and in that connection many representatives supported the Executive Director's statement. They underlined the need to ensure close working relations between UNEP and UNCHS. Several representatives suggested that UNEP's role in environmental aspects of human settlements should be catalytic in nature. One representative proposed an increase in resources allocated to the subprogramme as the present allocation was deemed to be inadequate. Another representative proposed that the human settlement perspective be reflected in all relevant subprogrammes, such as those on freshwater, coastal areas, energy, industry and transportation.

152. One representative called on countries to increase their commitment to regional programmes. Another representative suggested that UNEP should be involved in the field of rural settlements.

153. Many representatives called for higher priority for subprogramme 5. One representative observed that the link between human settlements and health was not a high priority, but others considered the issue to be of high priority to developing countries. One representative of a developing

country noted that, as 70 per cent of diseases in his country were environmentally caused, it was essential to place emphasis on the link between health and human settlements.

154. Some representatives stressed the need to ensure that subprogramme 5 was implemented bearing in mind the recommendations of Agenda 21. One representative considered that chapters 6 and 7 of Agenda 21 should feature prominently in the subprogramme and also called for the incorporation of health aspects in human settlements planning and management. He also wished to see more support given to environmental health activities.

155. The representative of Senegal expressed full support for programme element 5.4 and announced that his country would host an international conference on environment and health in January 1994. While in general expressing support for programme element 5.4, another representative wished to know why some areas such as primary health services, AIDS, and communicable diseases were not included. Another representative noted that the activities under 5.4.1 were extremely important.

156. The representative of the United States of America, highlighting the importance of information and data, offered to share computer technology which had been found useful in planning settlements in coastal areas prone to sealevel rise. Several representatives urged support on the part of developed countries and the sharing of experience in the area of settlement planning and management.

157. Some representatives suggested that training and capacity-building in the area of environment and human health should be accorded high priority. One representative called for the preparation and implementation of action plans on human settlements, environment and human health.

158. Some representatives observed that increased attention should be paid to the process of urbanization, especially in developing countries. One representative explained that urbanization was a major issue in his country, especially since it involved socio-economic problems. Another representative called for the inclusion of the issue of open spaces, green belts and parks in human settlement programmes.

159. One representative, emphasizing the importance of planning in mitigating the causes of disasters, suggested that the programme element in that area should be further strengthened, *inter alia*, through increased cooperation with the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization and within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

160. One representative proposed that activities under programme elements 5.1 and 5.2 should be revised in the light of the Executive Director's statement. Another felt that those programme elements constituted an appropriate area for cooperation between UNEP and Habitat, while another representative felt that programme element 5.2 was of low priority since it duplicated the Awareness and Preparedness for Industrial Accidents at Local Level (APELL) programme and suggested that funds be moved to activity 5.3.1 (IPCS). The same representative felt that activity 5.3.1 was of high priority and that more resources should be provided by shifting funds from programme element 5.4. Another representative suggested that activity 8.1.1 be merged with 5.3, while some other representatives supported activity 5.3.1.

161. Two representatives gave strong support and high priority to the INTERSUN project.

162. The representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the ILO/UNEP/WHO International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) made interventions and stressed the importance of cooperation in the area of environmental health between UNEP and WHO. They informed the Committee that a global strategy for health and environment would soon be adopted by WHO.

### F. *Subprogramme 6. Environmental economics, accounting and management tools*

163. In introducing subprogramme 6 (Environmental economics, accounting and management tools), the Assistant Executive Director for Environmental Management, Institutions and Capacity-Building and representative of the Executive Director said that it was a new subprogramme, representing an extension of previous UNEP activities in the area, developed in a coherent and more integrated manner. He indicated that, throughout Agenda 21, emphasis was laid on the importance of coordinated effort between United Nations agencies and development assistance organizations in integrating environment and economics for sustainable development. UNCED had identified as priority areas for UNEP the development and promotion of the use of such techniques as natural resource accounting and environmental economics, as well as the further development and promotion of the widest possible use of environmental impact assessment. In that light, activities in the subprogramme included support for further development, testing and application of methodologies of valuation of environmental and natural resources, support to the establishment of systems of integrated environmental and economic accounting through the further development, testing and application of methodologies of environmental and natural resource accounting, the practical application of environmental impact assessment, cost-benefit analysis and risk assessment and management, the use and application of economic instruments and policies for environmental management and promotion and development of modalities for integrating environmental considerations in international economic cooperation.

164. The representative of the Executive Director emphasized that the implementation of the environment and economics subprogramme would focus on building on existing expertise and knowledge; responding to the needs of developing countries; catalysing and coordinating efforts undertaken by United Nations organizations and other international agencies in the area; promoting the integration of environmental considerations in socio-economic development planning for sustainable development; and enhancing the capacity of developing countries and countries in transition to market economies through practical programmes in the field of environment and economics.

165. In considering subprogramme 6, most of the representatives who took the floor emphasized the importance of integrating environment and economics to achieve sustainable development as a priority area for UNEP and supported UNEP's programme in this area.

166. A number of representatives stated that the subprogramme should receive high priority. Many representatives emphasized the critical importance of international cooperation in the area of economics and the environment, the importance of UNEP not duplicating work already under way in other international organizations, especially work undertaken by OECD, UNDP, GATT, UNCTAD and others, and the importance of UNEP focusing on the practical applications of environmental economics.

167. A number of representatives welcomed the inclusion of that new programme area in UNEP's programme and commended UNEP on its development. Several, however, pointed out the difficulty and complexity involved in its implementation.

168. One representative, while acknowledging the subprogramme as being a priority for UNEP, suggested that the allocation provided should be revised to reflect a lower level of funding.

169. One representative emphasized the importance of coordination at the regional level, and of focusing on strengthening linkages with national capacities in environmental management. Several representatives suggested that UNEP should convene regional and interregional seminars on integrating environment into socio-economic planning, approaches and methodologies, and capacity-building, specifically targeting administrators and policy-makers. One representative stated that members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) had been working in the area for some time, and were prepared to share their experience with UNEP and the international community. Two representatives noted the considerable body of research and other work related to environment and economics under way in the Latin American and Caribbean region, which should be put to use. One of them stressed that greater cost-effectiveness would be achieved in the subprogramme's activities through decentralization to the regional and national levels. Another representative stressed that, in the activities related to the support of training, research and know-how, UNEP should involve not only Governments and universities, but also centres of economic research, particularly in relation to the expertise of such centres in Latin America. One representative suggested that countries acting within the framework of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) should consider incorporating economic analysis in their development planning policies.

170. A number of representatives emphasized the importance of introducing environmental and natural resource accounting in national accounting systems as indicators for sustainable development.

171. One representative suggested that in future the programme could perhaps be made more ambitious through changing the outputs to a specified number of countries which would publish national accounts on a trial basis, including valuation of resource depletion and environmental damage.

172. One representative stressed the importance of coordinating environmental and natural resource accounting by national Governments, and emphasized that environmental management must respect national sovereignty. Another representative stated that the inclusion of environmental and natural resource accounting in subprogramme 6 was too ambitious an undertaking and should probably be postponed to later years. Many representatives urged UNEP to concentrate on the practical application of methodologies in natural resource accounting, with particular emphasis on meeting the needs of developing countries and countries in transition to market economies.

173. One representative stressed the importance of undertaking case-studies, and building on the experience of non-governmental organizations, including the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), particularly with regard to work related to the environmental impacts of structural adjustment programmes.

174. Several representatives emphasized the usefulness and growing importance of the application of economic instruments at the national level as a valuable tool in strengthening environmental management and sustainable development.

175. One representative noted that activity 6.1.5 did not adequately address the "inventory" aspect of the Agenda 21 priorities for UNEP. He suggested that the description and outputs should be reworded to include the development of an inventory of effective uses of instruments. Two

representatives indicated that national environmental action plans had incorporated economic tools such as environmental impact assessments and economic instruments.

176. One representative noted the high priority of environmental impact assessments at the national level as tools to incorporate environmental considerations into economic and development planning. Another representative suggested that activity 6.1.4 should be divided into at least two separate parts, one to provide assistance to developing countries in the practical application of environmental impact assessments, the other to promote and develop modalities for risk assessment and management in economic analysis. Emphasis was also placed by one representative on practical application of environmental impact assessments, building on existing experience, using cost-effective methodologies, and concentrating on application of existing methodologies in specific sectors, such as agriculture policies. One representative considered that adequate funding should be provided for activity 6.1.4.

177. One representative suggested that UNEP might be able to play a coordinating role in economic valuation, rather than a direct participatory role, at least in developing countries. A coordinating role would allow outputs to be achieved at reduced cost.

178. Many representatives urged UNEP to focus its activities on enhancing national capacities in integrating environmental considerations into socio-economic and development planning at the national level. One representative stressed the importance of the human resource aspect in developing countries, and its relationship to the development of the application of economic instruments to achieve sustainable development.

179. Several representatives noted the need for increased international cooperation and assistance in the field of environment and economics.

180. One representative pointed out the importance of establishing databases for the use of economic analysis and instruments.

181. A number of representatives, in stressing the linkages between environment and trade, urged UNEP to work closely with GATT and other international organizations.

182. One representative suggested that the budget proposed for activity 6.1.6 of $600,000 should be reduced to $200,000 or $300,000. Another representative suggested that UNEP's work related to trade and the environment, in subprogramme 6.1.6, should be sub-divided into two areas, one dealing with the promotion and development of modalities for promoting the mutual compatibility of environment and trade, the other covering the promotion and development of modalities for international cooperation on economic approaches to environmental issues. Two representatives stressed the importance of coordination in addressing conditionality of structural adjustment programmes, underlining the need to address the subject within the context of sustainable development. Another representative stressed the impact of taxes and tariffs on developing countries, within the context of trade, and the linkages between debt and the environment. The representative stressed the need to integrate environmental considerations into trade, and requested close cooperation among UNEP, OECD and the economic commissions.

183. One representative stressed the importance of economic analysis and instruments in tax reform and in the system of national accounts, and the environmental implications of structural reforms, including privatization.

184. Two representatives cautioned against the negative implications arising from the unilateral use of economic instruments at the national level, while another cautioned against the similar use of instruments such as eco-labelling and suggested wider use of economic incentives to promote environmental management.

185. One representative referred to the programme of action for Central Europe, in which the use of economic tools to address environmental degradation should play an important role. He referred to the need for an "eco-Marshall Plan" and a revolving fund to address ecological problems in countries in transition to market economies.

186. Two representatives noted that the integration of environment and economics was particularly important for developing countries, where demographic growth outpaced development, while another stressed the importance of integrating environmental tools in the development process to address widespread poverty.

187. Two representatives expressed the view that activity 6.1.8, dealing with the Committee of International Development Institutions on the Environment (CIDIE), should not be included in the subprogramme. One representative expressed support for a strong advisory role for UNEP in the international lending institutions and encouraged UNEP to be activist with respect to CIDIE, rather than participating at a theoretical level.

188. The Chairman noted the support representatives indicated for the programme, as well as the emphasis made on the need for UNEP not to duplicate efforts already under way. He pointed to the concern expressed that coordinating work on national accounting procedures might impinge on national sovereignty. He requested the representative of the Executive Director to clarify the funding aspect of the subprogramme, particularly that related to "in kind" support.

189. The representative of the Executive Director expressed his appreciation to representatives for their support of the new UNEP subprogramme. He stated that he was aware of the difficulties that it would encounter, particularly during its formative stages. He assured representatives that the secretariat would take into account the nuances expressed, and noted that UNEP was already working very closely with other organizations, including OECD, UNCTAD, UNDP, GATT and others. He welcomed collaboration between UNEP and countries with experience in environment and economics and any support they were prepared to provide to UNEP in that area. Finally, he said that "in kind" support meant that, while no additional finance would be provided from other UNEP units, there would be close interaction among the programme areas.

### G. *Subprogramme 7. Environmental law, institutions and policies*

190. Introducing the subprogramme 7 (Environmental law, institutions and policies), the Assistant Executive Director for Environmental Management, Institutions and Capacity-Building and representative of the Executive Director said that Agenda 21 had enhanced the mandate of UNEP in the field of environmental law, especially in the development of international environmental law and the provision of technical assistance to developing countries to develop national environmental legislation and institutions. He stated that, in recent years, UNEP had been in the forefront helping in the rapid development of international environmental law and recounted the success achieved by UNEP. He also referred to the future activities of the Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre (ELI/PAC) which would focus on the effective implementation of existing international legal instruments, coordination of secretariats of conventions, development of new international legal instruments and provision of technical

assistance to developing countries. The programme for the exchange of information and training would also be enhanced, as would cooperation with other units within UNEP and other United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations.

191. Referring to document UNEP/GC.17/5, part II, section C on the Joint IMO/IAEA/ UNEP Working Group on the Carriage of Irradiated Nuclear Fuel by Sea and draft decision 4 submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the carriage of irradiated fuel by sea (UNEP/GC.17/L.7), the Assistant Executive Director for Earthwatch Coordination and Environmental Assessment and representative of the Executive Director provided the information that the Joint Group had met at the end of April 1993 and had completed its work. The chairman of the group had then submitted a request that it be dissolved. The representative of the Executive Director added that, in the light of that request, the Governing Council might wish to reconsider the need for draft decision 4.

192. All representatives who spoke on the subject expressed their appreciation and support for subprogramme 7 and the activities of ELI/PAC, with most of them stating that it was one of the areas of high priority for UNEP.

193. Several representatives recalled the significant role UNEP had played in the development of international legal instruments in the field of the environment. Other representatives stressed that UNEP was suitably equipped and uniquely placed to facilitate future developments in the area.

194. While supporting the development of conventions and protocols, some representatives stressed that a lot more emphasis should be placed on the efficient and effective implementation of existing legal instruments. Several representatives suggested that the implementation of and verification of compliance with international legal instruments should be strengthened and stated that there should be no undue haste to draw up new conventions. One representative emphasized the importance of the continuing development of international environmental law in that context. The representative of Switzerland stated that his Government was prepared to provide funding through UNEP to assist countries in the implementation of existing international legal instruments. Several representatives requested UNEP to provide assistance to developing countries to facilitate their participation in the negotiation, ratification and implementation of conventions and protocols.

195. Several representatives expressed their support for the coordination of the secretariats of environmental conventions and saw it as a means by which the secretariats could provide common services to the parties to various conventions.

196. With regard to the Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, several representatives emphasized the importance of concluding the revision and amendment of the text by environmental law experts so that it could be adopted for the coming decade. One representative suggested that transboundary air pollution control and marine pollution from land-based sources should be accorded high priority as they had also been identified by Agenda 21 as subject areas ripe for action. Another representative suggested that there should be a mid-term review of the implementation of the programme in 1997.

197. Several representatives commented on the need to develop international conventions on cooperation in environmental emergencies, but stressed that it should be accorded low priority by UNEP as other international organizations were already active in the area. The representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) informed

the Committee that his organization had adopted the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (OPRC) and called on UNEP to cooperate with IMO in promoting its implementation. He stressed the need to enhance the capacity of developing countries to ratify and implement existing international global and regional legal instruments.

198. Several representatives expressed their support for the preparatory work on the formulation and implementation of an international legal instrument on marine pollution from land-based sources. One other representative stated that his Government favoured developing regional legal instruments on marine pollution from land-based sources. Another representative stated that the recommendations of the intergovernmental meeting to be convened in 1995 on marine pollution from land-based sources would be submitted to the Governing Council for its final decision.

199. Concerning accession to the Convention on Biological Diversity, several representatives informed the Committee that their Governments were in the process of ratifying the Convention.

200. On environmental impact assessment, two representatives expressed the view that a global legal instrument was needed. Two representatives asked for clarification concerning the measures envisaged by UNEP and requested the organization to take into account each country's specific characteristics. Another representative, together with the representative of the Commission of the European Communities, drew attention to ongoing regional activities on environmental impact assessment and suggested that UNEP should take those activities into consideration when determining its course of action.

201. On information exchange on international trade in chemicals, in particular prior informed consent, several representatives expressed their support for ongoing activities and suggested that they should be accorded high priority.

202. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) stressed the need for close cooperation between UNEP and his organization in the implementation of prior informed consent procedures, and a possible joint effort to develop a legally-binding instrument as envisaged in chapter 19 of Agenda 21. He further suggested that the Governing Council might wish to make recommendations to the General Assembly or the Commission on Sustainable Development in that regard.

203. A number of representatives expressed strong support for the assistance programme to developing countries to develop national legislation and institutions and called on UNEP to assist further in enhancing national capabilities in that area. One representative said that he would like a qualitative assessment to be undertaken of UNEP's prior assistance programmes with the purpose of improving the content and effectiveness of future activities wherever appropriate. A number of other representatives informed the Committee of recent enactments of environmental legislation in their countries and expressed the hope that UNEP would continue to provide them with technical assistance to develop their legislation further. Several representatives urged UNEP to assist countries in preparing national environmental codes and standards. One representative stressed that such standards should be prepared to meet the specific needs of each country.

204. The representative of Japan stated that his Government was prepared to place at the disposal of UNEP its expertise in the development of national environmental legislation. Another representative stressed the

importance of establishing appropriate institutions to implement policies and legislation. Some representatives called on UNEP and the international community to assist countries with economies in transition to develop their national environmental legislation and institutions.

205. Several representatives urged UNEP to cooperate closely with other United Nations bodies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, notably the IUCN, in its assistance programme to developing countries.

206. A number of representatives expressed strong support for the work of ELI/PAC in the field of information, education and training and emphasized that the provision of information on international and national environmental law and training as a means of improving the skills of national experts was essential in any capacity-building programme. Several representatives expressed their concern over the fact that no budgetary allocation had been made for information and training activities within ELI/PAC. In his reply, the representative of the secretariat explained that budgetary allocation had been made for those activities, but they had been included in the subprogramme on capacity-building.

207. Some representatives called for the reorientation of subprogramme 7 to take into account all aspects of the further development of international law on sustainable development, as envisaged by chapter 39 of Agenda 21. In that respect, they emphasized that due weight should be given to both environment and development as integral elements of the concept of sustainable development.

208. Upon the conclusion of the discussion of the subprogramme, the Director of ELI/PAC expressed his gratitude for the expressions of support for the environmental law, institutions and policies subprogramme, and stated that the suggestions and proposals made would be considered in the implementation of the Centre's work programme.

### H. *Subprogramme 8. Toxic chemicals and waste management*

209. Subprogramme 8 (Toxic chemicals and waste management) was discussed together with subprogramme 5 (Environmental health, settlements and human welfare).

210. In his introduction, the Assistant Executive Director for Earthwatch Coordination and Environmental Assessment and representative of the Executive Director gave an overview of UNEP activities in the area since 1972. Many representatives expressed their support for the new subprogramme, which had been developed as a response to the priorities for UNEP included in Agenda 21.

211. One representative made specific reference to UNEP's efforts in stimulating work not undertaken elsewhere and in fulfilling its catalytic role. The same representative mentioned that UNEP's close involvement in the IPCS was considered of the highest priority and praised the work of the IPCS. Some representatives supported the extension of the IPCS.

212. Some representatives commended the efforts made by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Several representatives mentioned that they had ratified or were in the process of ratifying the Basel Convention and indicated their wish to see it ratified by others as soon as possible. Several representatives also mentioned the need to take into consideration the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and Control of Transboundary Movement and Management within Africa of Hazardous Wastes. One representative mentioned that, although some aspects of activity 8.1.3

were worth while, elements of it duplicated work by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention already covered by trust funds, and that, therefore, support should be transferred to activities 8.1.1 and 8.1.2. Several other representatives, however, supported activity 8.1.3. One representative also hoped that technical guidelines would be established under the Basel Convention as soon as possible. The representative of the Commission of the European Communities informed the meeting that the Commission would shortly be ratifying the Basel Convention, which would then become law in the EEC countries and would enter into force in 1994. She also informed the Committee of the European Communities regulation on the import and export of hazardous chemicals, which contained a prior informed consent procedure just like the Amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information in Chemicals in International Trade.

213. One representative welcomed the proposal for a code of ethics on hazardous products in international trade.

214. The representative of Austria, while supporting the subprogramme, pointed out that his country, in cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, had organized workshops on laboratory practice, prior informed consent and hazardous waste management within the framework of the Central European initiative and that Austria was prepared to continue those activities for countries with economies in transition.

215. Some representatives mentioned that full advantage should be taken of cooperation and collaboration with OECD, because of its valuable work in chemicals and waste management.

216. One representative expressed support for the recommendations set out in the report of the Executive Director on updating the UNEP list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance (UNEP/GC.17/24).

217. The representative of Sweden, in supporting the subprogramme, referred specifically to the intergovernmental meeting on chemical risk assessment and management called for in Agenda 21 and announced her country's offer to host the meeting in April 1994. She requested the Governing Council to authorize UNEP to convene such a meeting, together with ILO and WHO, and to look into the implications for the programme budget.

218. One representative underlined the importance of activities 8.1.1 and 8.1.4 and expressed appreciation of the active role played by UNEP. He also stressed the importance of the capacity-building activities within the framework of the Amended London Guidelines mentioned under programme element 10.4 (IRPTC) (activity 10.4.8) and mentioned the need to reinforce assistance to developing countries to increase their capacity to manage toxic chemicals. His remarks were supported by two other representatives.

219. A number of representatives expressed their full support for the implementation of the Amended London Guidelines.

220. Two representatives supported the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on the Implementation of the Amended London Guidelines, held in Geneva, from 25 to 29 January 1993, to convene a task force to consider modalities for a legally binding instrument for the mandatory application of the prior informed consent procedure.

221. Several representatives spoke in support of activity 8.1.4.

222. Several representatives raised the problem of pharmaceuticals being too freely available in markets in certain countries and urged that efforts be made to control the situation.

223. One representative said the activities under 8.1.1 should be merged with activity 5.3.1 so as to reflect better the priorities discussed.

224. The representative of the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) informed the meeting that the World Health Assembly currently taking place had endorsed the call made by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to UNEP, ILO and WHO to convene an intergovernmental meeting on chemical risk assessment and management.

225. In summing up the discussion, the representative of the Executive Director said that it had been stimulating and balanced. The secretariat was grateful for the support of the Governing Council in its venture to create the new subprogramme, which would emphasize UNEP's catalytic role as a follow-up to Agenda 21. The subprogramme would include promotion of cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations on all aspects of the work of the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre (IE/PAC), the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) and the secretariat of the Basel Convention. As far as chemicals were concerned, he mentioned that the extended IPCS provided a unique opportunity for cooperation among ILO, WHO, FAO, UNIDO, OECD, the Commission of the European Communities and others on chemicals management, thereby avoiding unnecessary duplication of work. He said that UNEP would ensure that the programme would be results-oriented and would focus on awareness-raising, education, training and capacity building. Work to implement the London Guidelines would continue and a task force to study the legal modalities for strengthening them would be established.

### I. *Subprogramme 9. Industry, energy and the environment*

226. Introducing subprogramme 9 (Industry, energy and the environment), the Assistant Executive Director for Earthwatch Coordination and Environmental Assessment and representative of the Executive Director said that its main objective was to serve as a catalyst for the introduction of the environment dimension in industrial development, including the development of tourism and transport, and in the use of energy sources. The programme laid emphasis on a preventive approach. It would be developed in close association with other organizations of the United Nations system and also with industry.

227. Many representatives expressed their general support for subprogramme 9, observing that it dealt with some of the most important areas of national development. One of those representatives said, however, that there should be stronger linkage between the different programme elements. For example, energy for production was of crucial importance to industry and there was the question of the pollution that was produced by transport systems, which in most cases was directly linked to the use of fossil fuels.

#### 1. *Programme element 9.1. Energy and environment*

228. Several representatives said that programme element 9.1 (Energy and environment) was of the highest priority and that additional resources should be made available for its activities, especially those dealing with support to sustainable national energy development, renewable energy resources and the technologies for their utilization, and specifically those which addressed the problems of rural energy supply in the form of wood fuel, with its associated environmental and social impact.

229. Some representatives emphasized that the programme element did not reflect the fact that in many cases fossil fuel resources represented the most realistic and available option, especially for the developing countries, and if those resources were utilized in an efficient and clean manner they represented the most sustainable and immediate solution. Increased emphasis on those aspects was called for, especially in activities 9.1.1 and 9.1.2. The representatives felt that, although the programme of Fund activities reflected the thrust of the discussions held during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, it did not attempt to resolve the conflicting views. One representative specifically requested that, in the strategy description for the programme element of the document, reference should be made to "environmentally sound" and "safe" technologies and development, stressing inclusion of the word "safe", in paragraphs 5 (b), (c), (d) and (e).

230. Several representatives underlined the importance of broadening the scope of some of the activities, such as 9.1.5 and 9.1.6, to include aspects like national technology research, technology transfer and adaptation, and support to local capacity-building. It was further emphasized that those activities should be more action-oriented and should not aim merely to produce publications.

231. Some representatives pointed out that energy and environment was an area in which several international and national institutions were already very active and consequently UNEP should undertake comprehensive consultations before initiating certain specific activities such as activity 9.1.1. While agreeing with the general thrust of the programme, they nevertheless considered it to be of medium priority given the other international activities being undertaken in the area.

232. One representative emphasized that the focus of the database work in activity 9.1.6 should be on support for the establishment of national databases and not merely on generic data collection. Capacity-building and local data availability was of the utmost importance. One delegation questioned the priorities established for the various activities, and stressed the importance of those relating to rural energy and renewable energy sources.

*2. Programme element 9.2. Industry and environment*

233. Many representatives highlighted the crucial importance of the programme element 9.2 (Industry and environment) in assisting the promotion of sustainable industrial development. A number of those representatives commended the work done by the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre (IE/PAC) and expressed their support for the programme element. Many representatives also expressed the need to increase funding for it. Several representatives felt that less than 5 per cent of the overall budget for the biennium was too little for such a programme. One representative called on UNEP to recruit additional staff and provide more resources, in particular to enable the subprogramme to perform the necessary tasks on cleaner production and APELL.

234. Many representatives stressed the importance of preventing pollution at source and of the efficient use of natural resources, as highlighted in Agenda 21, two representatives underlining the cost savings that would be generated. A number of representatives highlighted the priority of the cleaner production activity under the subprogramme. Several representatives considered the transfer of environmentally sound technology to be crucial, and several stressed the importance of the International Cleaner Production Information Clearinghouse (ICPIC) for the transfer of related information. Several representatives emphasized that ICPIC was a means of networking experts, and that regional or subregional nodes should

be developed to improve it. One representative suggested that in addition to the exchange of information, the IE/PAC should facilitate the transfer of clean technologies on preferential terms. Two representatives were of the opinion that the national cleaner production centres should be more widely promoted and one representative said that they should involve industry in sharing information.

235. Several representatives expressed their support for the APELL programme to promote accident prevention and emergency preparedness, one considering that it should place more emphasis on follow-up activities.

236. Several representatives called on IE/PAC to increase its training programmes for the benefit of developing countries, one making specific reference to the usefulness and impact of its training activities in his country. Another representative emphasized the need for training in environmental management in small- and medium-scale industries.

237. A number of representatives commended IE/PAC for its publications, which were presented in a very readable manner. Several of those representatives also indicated that the information contained in the publications had helped in the taking of environmentally sound decisions.

238. Several representatives suggested that IE/PAC should increase its technical assistance, particularly in carrying out rapid technological assessments.

3. *Programme element 9.3. Transportation and environment*

239. Several representatives gave their support to the work that IE/PAC was doing in the area of transportation and the environment, as Agenda 21 had recommended. One representative pointed to the need for assistance to be given to the developing countries in establishing environmentally sound transportation systems in their rapidly growing urban areas, noting the particular need to find ways of controlling the noise and atmospheric pollution produced. Two representatives, however, felt that programme element 9.3 was not a high priority.

240. Several representatives highlighted the need to ensure that UNEP's work in the transportation area did not overlap with that of other organizations, and, in particular, Habitat.

4. *Programme element 9.4. Tourism and environment*

241. A number of representatives spoke in support of programme element 9.4 (Tourism and environment). One representative said that the European Community had defined tourism as a special target and UNEP should explore the possibility of cooperating with the Community. Another representative said that too little attention had been paid in the past to the environmental impacts of tourism and that the activity should be expanded. Two representatives said that the programme should be carried out in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization and Habitat.

5. *Programme element 9.5. Working environment*

242. Several representatives stressed the need to improve the working environment. One representative suggested that the IE/PAC should focus on occupational health and safety, the formulation of guidelines, the training of personnel, and safety in the use of chemicals, while another emphasized the need to give special attention to workers' welfare in their working environment. The representative of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) underlined the complementarity between ILO and UNEP activities in the area.

243. In response to the various comments on subprogramme 9, the Assistant Executive Director for Earthwatch Coordination and Environmental Assessment and representative of the Executive Director requested the representatives to continue to indicate their priorities both between and within subprogrammes. The Director of the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre said that she had been encouraged by the statements of support the Centre had received from representatives. She had noted the various observations made would take them into account when implementing the subprogramme.

### *J. Subprogramme 10. Earthwatch data, information, assessment and early warning*

244. The Assistant Executive Director for Earthwatch Coordination and Environmental Assessment and representative of the Executive Director introduced subprogramme 10 (Earthwatch data, information, assessment and early warning) by summarizing the seven programme elements making up Earthwatch: Earthwatch coordination, GEMS, INFOTERRA, IRPTC, GRID, state of the environment, and the experimental United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance.

#### 1. *General Earthwatch issues*

245. Many representatives expressed general support for the Earthwatch subprogramme, often citing the importance of good information for decision-making and the central role of Earthwatch in UNEP activities.

246. Noting that good telecommunications was vital for the subprogramme, the representative of Kenya reported that his country had of late greatly expanded its telecommunication facilities, a major consideration in that expansion being the current needs of UNEP headquarters in Nairobi. Future needs for the purpose of subprogramme 10 would be given due consideration.

247. Many representatives complimented those Earthwatch activities that focused on national capacity-building, and urged Earthwatch management to intensify its efforts in strengthening national capabilities to compile and actually analyse and use environmental information for environmental decision-making and for implementation of sustainable development programmes.

248. One representative raised a number of important questions which Earthwatch should address, concerning the capacity of countries to absorb environmental data and data-handling technology. He questioned whether the results measured up to the countries' expectations.

249. A number of representatives, while recognizing the importance of the work, noted the high cost of the subprogramme and expressed the hope that funds could be found elsewhere to allow UNEP funds to be concentrated other priorities such as capacity-building in developing countries.

250. Several representative proposed that the Governing Council should adopt a decision on a broad forward-looking assessment of Earthwatch, its strategy and activities, by the Executive Director with the assistance of an ad hoc government-designated expert group with a view to developing ways and means of strengthening the monitoring and assessment functions of Earthwatch to provide a better basis for decision-making. Particular attention should be paid to defining and addressing user needs and the capacity to use environmental information, particularly in developing countries. One representative particularly stressed the need fully to integrate components of Earthwatch to make it a fully operational system.

251. A number of representatives noted that State sovereignty should be clearly respected while dealing with environmental information gathering, analysis and dissemination. One representative specifically referred to issues like biodiversity and land-use planning as being issues of national concern only. One representative said that the country concerned would have to authorize the use of the information before it could be released.

252. Two representatives added that in the post-UNCED phase it might be useful to avoid, in UNEP's programmes, terminology that could in some languages have a "policing" connotation or appear to disregard the sovereign rights of countries, especially when related to biodiversity and tropical ecosystems.

### 2. *Programme element 10.1. Earthwatch coordination*

253. Several representatives referred to strengthening and increasing coordination of the United Nations system-wide Earthwatch, with one referring to the ACC recommendations on the matter and another mentioning the Commission on Sustainable Development. A UNEP role in the encouragement and coordination of complex work on environmental indicators was particularly supported by a number of representatives.

254. One representative pointed out that UNEP should adopt a balanced approach and carry out monitoring and assessment of natural resources in developed countries as well. In particular, there was an urgent need to monitor unsustainable lifestyles, and to have a scientific assessment of biodiversity loss in monoculture forests and the clear-cutting of old-growth forests in the temperate and boreal regions.

### 3. *Programme element 10.2. Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS)*

255. Several representatives expressed their support for programme element 10.2 (Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS)) in general. Several others specifically expressed their satisfaction with the implementation of the GEMS environmental pollution programme (GEMS/Water and GEMS/Air, in particular), while two representatives specifically complimented the Environmental Information Network activities. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) mentioned that FAO supported the improvement of GEMS/Food programme.

256. One representative expressed some concern about the data quality of GEMS outputs, but was confident that the issue was being dealt with already and offered his delegation's full support for those efforts. Another representative called for greater emphasis on standardization of methods and utilization of quality assurance programmes utilizing the experience of UNEP and IAEA and that of other countries.

257. The representatives of WHO and WMO expressed their support for the GEMS programmes and indicated that good cooperation took place. They mentioned the need for more funds to assist developing countries with their national level activities to allow them to participate in the programmes.

### 4. *Programme element 10.3. INFOTERRA*

258. In the Committee's discussion of programme element 10.3 (INFOTERRA), one representative urged that additional funds be provided to activity 10.3.7 (Monitoring of development of technologies relevant to sustainable development). Another representative recommended that INFOTERRA be given additional funding to increase its number of national seminars and to enable the expansion of its promotional activities including publications in national languages.

259. Two representatives recommended that INFOTERRA take a more proactive approach in supplying information to developing countries and in promoting its activities.

260. Several other representatives recommended that the programme element put an increased emphasis on training and national capacity-building.

261. One representative recommended that the programme element cooperate more closely with other United Nations bodies, especially UNDP, and further suggested that INFOTERRA national focal points should be included in the UNDP Sustainable Development Network. The same representative recommended the expansion of the programme element's electronic mail capacities.

262. The representative of FAO recommended close cooperation with the FAO Agricultural Research Information Service (AGRIS) and the Current Agricultural Research Information Service (CARIS) networks.

### 5. *Programme element 10.4. International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC)*

263. In the discussion of programme element 10.4 (International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC)), many representatives expressed their appreciation for the work of IRPTC.

264. One representative said that IRPTC should advertise its services more to make it better known at the national level.

265. Some representatives advocated that steps be taken to strengthen the legal basis for the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade, particularly its prior informed consent procedure.

266. One representative reminded IRPTC to focus on easy access to data, to recognize the clients' needs, and to accelerate the redesign of its computerized databank.

### 6. *Programme element 10.5. Global Resource Information Database (GRID)*

267. A number of representatives particularly supported programme element 10.5 (Global Resource Information Database (GRID)) within the overall context of Earthwatch, most of them specifically asking that more emphasis be given to national activities, in particular capacity-building.

268. One representative expressed satisfaction with the progress made by GRID since the sixteenth session of the Governing Council, and stressed that the future role of GRID was dependent on access to good telecommunications. He further noted that GRID should promulgate data standards and data quality guidelines, and take advantage of existing data management systems. GRID should be well integrated into the overall Earthwatch system.

### 7. *Programme element 10.6. State of the environment*

269. A number of representatives specifically supported programme element 10.6 (State of the environment), noting that the reports provided critical information for identifying environmental issues.

270. One representative added that to be useful, state-of-the-environment reports must be accurate, timely, and easily understood by users. Another representative added that the reports should be widely distributed.

271. One representative indicated that state-of-the-environment reports should preferably concentrate on thematic issues, and cover in-depth reviews of areas and regions not covered by other reports.

272. Several representatives stressed the importance of the preparation of regional and national state-of-the-environment reports and urged that high priority be given to them because of their usefulness in policy-making.

### 8. *Programme 10.7. United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance*

273. In considering programme element 10.7 (United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance), many representatives referred to the experimental phase of the Centre, and the important need that it was intended to fill as a "switchboard" providing rapid access to specialized expertise. Two of those representatives from developing countries particularly highlighted their need for help in managing environmental risks. Several, however, were concerned that the initial mandate was poorly defined and the results to date inconclusive, particularly in relation to other United Nations emergency response efforts within the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

274. One representative proposed replacing the Centre by a small unit attached to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, while a number proposed extending the experimental phase for one more year, with an evaluation at the end of that period.

275. The representative of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) cautioned against an extension of the mandate of the Centre beyond industrial man-made disasters to natural disasters, since that would make the task of coordination much more complicated.

### 9. *Concluding remarks by the Assistant Executive Director for Earthwatch Coordination and Environmental Assessment*

276. In his concluding remarks, the Assistant Executive Director for Earthwatch Coordination and Environmental Assessment emphasized the increasing focus of Earthwatch elements on national capacity-building for the use of environmental data. In reply to those representatives concerned by international monitoring and issues of national sovereignty, he stated that UNEP did not plan to collect data without full discussion with the countries concerned. He agreed that temperate and boreal forests had been neglected internationally and indicated that GRID hoped to collect such baseline data. The cost of the subprogramme appeared larger than other subprogrammes because most Earthwatch units were programme activity centres where all operational costs, including staff salary costs, were included in the budget, which was not the case with other units. With reference to the proposed group of government-nominated experts to review Earthwatch, he indicated that funds could be found in the proposed Earthwatch budget. In response to a question about cooperation on urgent environmental assistance with non-governmental organizations, he mentioned that UNEP had received a letter from the International Green Cross, and that UNEP would explore possible cooperation in that area. The delay in modernizing the IRPTC database was due to some technical problems and would soon be overcome with the help, *inter alia*, of the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The Director of INFOTERRA was already cooperating with the UNDP Sustainable Development Network and was improving electronic access. Concerning the FAO comment about INFOTERRA cooperation with FAO networks, UNEP had supported the creation of CARIS, and most AGRIS centres were registered with INFOTERRA.

### K. *Subprogrammes 11 (Capacity-building for environmentally sound and sustainable development) and 12 (Support to and cooperation for environmental action (including global and regional cooperation))*

277. The Committee considered subprogramme 11 (Capacity-building for environmentally sound and sustainable development) in conjunction with subprogramme 12 (Support to and cooperation for environmental action (including global and regional cooperation)). In introducing the subprogrammes, the Assistant Executive Director for Environmental Management, Institutions and Capacity-Building and representative of the Executive Director said that the two subprogrammes were aimed at strengthening the capacity of countries for sustainable development. A detailed analysis of Agenda 21 by the secretariat had shown that almost all chapters had a capacity-building component in them. To give focus to the more integrated aspects of capacity-building, namely education, information, training, technology transfer and institution-building, those elements had been grouped under one heading, within subprogramme 11, while all aspects of regional cooperation were in subprogramme 12.

278. Furthermore, UNEP had set up a task force under the chairmanship of the previous Deputy Executive Director to refine, improve and broaden its approach to assisting developing countries to strengthen their capacity for decision-making and management in the environmental field.

279. The task force had recognized in particular that, as the environment was an integral and vital part of the sustainable development decision-making process, capacity-building must be concerted, coherent and comprehensive. Prior to the current session of the Governing Council, a series of consultations had been undertaken with other agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, in particular with UNDP, with a view to starting to build a coherent and comprehensive programme.

#### 1. *Programme element 11.1. Environmental education and training*

280. All representatives who spoke underscored the importance of capacity-building and expressed strong support for the programme element.

281. One representative mentioned that capacity-building could be likened to the hub of the wheel of Agenda 21 as far as developing countries were concerned. He stressed the need for increased funding for the subprogramme as well as the need to identify viable modalities for the successful implementation of training programmes. He called for the regionalization of training programmes for the development of suitable training kits and for additional focus to be placed on "training of trainers" programmes. He requested countries in the different regions to identify competent national institutions in the field of environmental management training that had the capacity to provide such training at the regional level. In that respect, he mentioned that his country had identified four such institutions with well-conceived programmes in environmental management training for the African region.

282. Other representatives stressed the importance of instruction, education and capacity-building as essential elements in the pursuit of sustainable development.

283. One representative expressed the view that the goal of instruction and education was not only to acquire knowledge but also to change patterns of consumption and production.

284. Some representatives offered to share with UNEP, and, through it, with other countries, their recently developed instruction, educational and training initiatives.

285. The representative of Kenya expressed deep appreciation to UNEP for having awarded training fellowships to an institution in his country during UNEP's twentieth anniversary celebrations in December 1992. Another representative announced that his country had established a university of nature and environmental sciences which should benefit from UNEP's assistance in drawing up its teaching programmes.

286. Several representatives indicated the importance of training in the field of environmental law and institution-building for their respective countries.

287. Some representatives stressed the importance of strengthening training in developing countries in order to ensure the continuation of projects even after external funding and assistance had ceased. They said that, if countries did not have the necessary know-how and capacity in, for example, the field of biodiversity, then an important heritage could be lost forever. They called for training programmes not just to provide a simple transfer of technology and know-how from developed to developing countries, but more importantly to promote the development of local know-how and technology.

288. A number of representatives made reference to the UNEP International Environment Technology Centre and called for the above Centre to make available to developing countries suitable technologies aimed at reducing pollution and managing urban and hazardous wastes in developing countries. One representative stressed the important role of the Centre in promoting transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, in particular, in the field of big city and freshwater management.

289. One representative emphasized that technology to be transferred from the developed countries must be adapted to the technological and economic conditions prevailing in African countries. In that connection, his country had submitted a specific proposal to the present session of the Governing Council on the creation in Tunisia of a centre on environmentally sound technology with the aim of developing and adapting technologies for use in African countries and he hoped the Council would consider the proposal favourably. He also stated that his country had sent a note verbale to UNEP on 6 April 1993 expressing the desire to host an international environmental technology centre for the African region and that, consequently, the report of the Executive Director (UNEP/GC.17/5) should be revised.

290. Some representatives felt that it was somewhat premature to establish new technology centres and that there should be an assessment of the existing centre before any decision was taken.

291. One representative supported the proposal of Tunisia and expressed his surprise that, in view of the enormous needs in that regard, it was deemed necessary to await an assessment of the Centre that existed in Japan before establishing new ones. One representative said that his country would welcome the possibility of establishing a technology centre in Europe in view of the problems of the Eastern European countries.

292. Some representatives made reference to the establishment of a network of green planners. They proposed that that network be seen as a form of capacity-building and believed that joining it could be worth while.

293. One representative supported consultations with the international agricultural research centres of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research and other already existing organizations to develop mechanisms for the generation and dissemination of environmentally sound technology.

294. A number of representatives of international organizations also expressed strong support for the programme element and welcomed the successful cooperation they had enjoyed with UNEP in the field of environmental education and training. In particular, the representative of UNESCO spoke of the long and fruitful cooperation between the two organizations in environmental education and mentioned that, in preparing the next phase of the joint UNESCO-UNEP International Environmental Education Programme, UNCED follow-up initiatives would be reflected.

295. The Assistant Executive Director stated that, in addition to the four countries which had responded to the letter from the Executive Director dated 17 July 1991 on the subject of other international technology centres, UNEP had received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Tunisia in Geneva dated 6 April 1993. The note verbale referred to a recommendation of UNCED on international technology centres and strongly hoped that such a centre would be established in Africa so that African countries could adopt new technologies, including sophisticated ones, which they really needed.

### 2. *Programme element 11.2. Environmental awareness: public information*

296. All the representatives who spoke expressed strong support for UNEP's activities to promote environmental awareness.

297. Two representatives drew attention to the importance of documentary and training films and one representative said that documentary films provided a useful medium for the exchange of experience. One representative called for the strengthening of information facilities in regional offices.

298. One representative expressed the view that many man-made disasters could be avoided if the public was better informed and trained.

299. Another representative thought that the problem was not too little information but rather too much, and UNEP must ensure that information was carefully targeted.

300. The Chief of the Education and Training Unit and the Chief of the Information and Public Affairs Branch of UNEP both stated how really encouraged they were by the importance attached and support given to subprogramme 11 on capacity-building by all the distinguished delegates and thanked them for the guidance received.

## L. *Subprogramme 12. Support to and cooperation for environmental action (including global and regional cooperation)*

301. Several representatives expressed their overall and strong support for the proposed activities in subprogramme 12 (Support to and cooperation for environmental action (including global cooperation)).

302. Several representatives supporting activity 12.1.7, expressed the view that UNEP's system-wide environmental coordination had a central role to play in the post-UNCED era. UNEP also had an important role in environmental coordination at the regional level. One representative said

that, pending an examination and possible reorganization of UNEP's regional office system, priority in regional activities would, in his view, be given to existing, specific regional activities - including those in other subprogrammes. Accordingly, he suggested that priority in the subprogramme should be given to activities 12.1.2, 12.1.5 and 12.1.7.

303. Many representatives stated that UNEP's subregional activities, as described in activity 12.1.2, for their specific geographical areas should be strengthened, including those for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), as well as those for small island States of the Indian Ocean, and those identified by the Lucerne Conference on the environmental action programme for Central and Eastern Europe and the VIII Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America. One representative referred to his Government's commitment towards the development of the North-East Asian Regional Environment Programme, and requested UNEP's cooperation in this initiative.

304. Several representatives considered that UNEP's regional and subregional activities should be strengthened. One representative expressed the view that such regional activities should be based on UNEP's existing sectoral activities. Some other representatives expressed the view that UNEP's activities at the regional level should be provided with increased resources. Another representative stated that regionalization of UNEP activities would generate a very positive impact.

305. One representative indicated that, in order to strengthen UNEP's action at the regional level, it was important to rationalize the functioning of its regional offices and to give them greater autonomy, especially ROLAC. He also suggested that the New York liaison office could be restructured to include UNEP's relations with the World Bank and GEF among its functions.

306. Several representatives pointed out that, in order to achieve coherent capacity-building and cooperation at regional and national levels, it was essential that UNEP should work together with other United Nations bodies, e.g., UNESCO, WHO, the regional economic commissions, and, in particular, UNDP.

307. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) drew attention to a recent high-level consultation meeting between UNEP and UNDP and stated that, in discharging the mandate for capacity-building it had received from UNCED, UNDP intended to work closely with UNEP within its Capacity 21 programme. UNEP-UNDP collaboration would draw upon the valuable expertise and experience in capacity-building developed by UNEP in the fields of environmental law and environmental management training. She stated that UNDP broadly support UNEP's activities in capacity-building. She also referred to a joint UNEP-UNDP-IUCN project on capacity-building in environmental law in a number of African countries which would be implemented as soon as expected donor funding was received.

308. One representative pointed out, and the representative of the Executive Director agreed, that activity 12.1.2(e) should refer to "East and Central European countries" instead of "developing countries".

309. The representative of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) briefly described OAU's past activities to assist member States to elaborate common positions during negotiations on international environmental instruments and during the preparatory stage for UNCED. He pledged OAU's willingness to assist its member countries in implementing Agenda 21.

310. Several representatives emphasized the need to strengthen UNEP's regional offices and one representative called for a review of the functioning and location of the regional offices. One representative proposed the creation of a subregional office of UNEP for the Indian Ocean islands.

311. In his concluding remarks, the Assistant Executive Director responded that the question of strengthening UNEP's regional offices was an important matter which needed to be addressed by the Executive Director and the ministers participating in the plenary session of the Governing Council.

### M. *Draft decision on the proposed programme of Fund activities for the biennium 1994-1995*

312. The representative of Brazil, speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, indicated that they would be submitting a draft decision concerning the proposed 1994-1995 programme of Fund activities. In that respect, he felt that the prevailing mood in the Governing Council was one of disappointment. The hope had been that the first session of the Council since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) would have helped chart a new course and that the efforts of developing countries to address problems of the environment and sustainable development would have been stimulated. However, no new resources for that purpose appeared to be forthcoming and there was a danger of the opportunity being lost. He said that the proposals of the Group of 77 and China had been made in line with the results of UNCED and took into account the need to avoid duplication of activities. He stressed as well the need to identify new resources to finance UNEP's activities. The draft decision tabled by the Group of 77 and China, along those lines, proposed adjustments to the programme in view of the priorities for funding by the Environment Fund.

313. In response, the representative of the United States of America said he looked forward to full partnership in the follow-up to UNCED, stating that his country had provided additional resources to support UNEP's role in that context. But he warned that, unfortunately, resources were limited and in the immediate future there would have to be "smarter" rather than more spending to initiate the follow-up to UNCED. He expected that discussion on the priorities for UNEP would be facilitated by the contribution of the Group of 77 and China, and hoped that the process would lead to a mutually acceptable outcome.

## III. OTHER PROGRAMME MATTERS

### A. *Report on the implementation of system-wide medium-term environment programme 1990-1995 and mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term environment programme for the period 1990-1995*

314. The Assistant Executive Director for Policy Development and Inter-Agency Affairs, in introducing the item, said that he agreed with the assessment contained in the self-evaluation by the Designated Official for Environmental Matters that system-wide medium-term environment programme had been a good compilation of the environmental activities undertaken by the United Nations system, but had not been effective as a programming tool for various reasons. In light of the conclusions of the document and the need to redefine coordination arrangements in the light of the results of UNCED, he said that the Executive Director, on the advice of the DOEM, had decided to await the outcome of post-UNCED inter-agency recommendations in that regard which she would make at the regular session of the Governing Council in 1995.

315. Some representatives welcomed the proposals and recommendations of the Executive Director with respect to the system-wide medium-term environment programme (SWMTEP) (UNEP/GC.17/6) and expressed their support for them.

316. One representative underlined strongly the need to make UNEP more efficient so as to enable it to enhance its catalytic role in the future. He agreed that it was important for there to be close coordination within the system and he emphasized UNEP's central role in achieving it. He cautioned, however, against a proliferation of expensive and unnecessary meetings and documentation, and said he looked forward to the Executive Director's future proposals.

317. One representative noted that adequate and effective cooperation and coordination in the United Nations system was of critical importance in UNCED follow-up. SWMTEP had been a useful compilation of information concerning the environmental activities of the United Nations system but it had not been an effective programming tool. In that respect, he strongly supported the need for an effective planning and strategy process in the field of the environment, as was used in preparing SWMTEP itself as well as the document before the Council. Document UNEP/GC.17/12/Add.1 also had a bearing on how new inter-agency arrangements should ensure continuation of the process that underlay preparation of SWMTEP and the integration of the results of the process of compiling and discussing coordination of United Nations environmental activities into a system-wide sustainable development strategy to be developed through the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

318. That representative was of the opinion that the tighter the coordination within the United Nations system, the more effective would be the system's response to UNCED. In that respect, a system-wide strategy for sustainable development should be developed through IACSD with the full participation of the successor group to the DOEM. The resulting strategy or programme could range from a loose coordination framework to a SWMTEP-type of document or a centralized master plan for the United Nations system with centralized coordination and decentralized implementation. Serious efforts would have to be made for a division of labour within the United Nations system and the resulting document could go to the Commission on Sustainable Development for its comment and eventually to the Economic and Social Council for approval. A critical factor that would determine the success of such a document would be if it encouraged adoption and implementation by the various governing bodies in the system and the support of Governments in ensuring that individual agencies, programmes and entities acted in accordance with the strategy or programme document.

319. One representative said that he was aware of coordination problems since UNCED; in his opinion, it was desirable for organizations concerned to propose means for action. He proposed that the West and Central African plan be updated and that effective coordination also be established at the regional level.

### B. *Progress report on the implementation of Governing Council decision 16/13 on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories*

320. Introducing the Executive Director's progress report on the implementation of Governing Council decision 16/13 on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories (UNEP/GC.17/Inf.12 and Corr.1), the Assistant Executive Director for Policy Development and Inter-Agency Affairs pointed out that the report was based on the visit of a UNEP technical mission that had assessed the availability

of data in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories with special emphasis on the completion of the environmental database. The mission had been sent in response to Governing Council decision 16/13. It had been received by the Governments of Jordan, Syria and Egypt, as well as by the Palestine Liberation Organization in Tunisia.

321. The Assistant Executive Director stated that the mission had taken place shortly before the current session on the Governing Council so as to allow the incorporation of the latest possible information on the subject in the light of the development of the multilateral peace process.

322. Most representatives who took the floor commended UNEP for the technical mission and noted the report with interest. Many representatives who spoke supported the report's recommendations but noted its preliminary character because the mission did not visit the occupied territories. They called upon the Executive Director to follow up and complete a report on the environmental and health situation in the occupied territories.

323. The representative of Israel called on delegations not to use the Governing Council as a forum for political discussions. Israel's position in regard to the visit of the delegation was very clearly explained in paragraph 2 of the report.

324. One representative pointed out that the report did not touch on the request by Governing Council decision 16/13 to the Executive Director to take the actions and measures capable of halting environmental deterioration in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories.

325. One representative said that the Governing Council should simply take note of the Executive Director's report. He considered that it was not necessary to take further action which might risk involving UNEP in matters outside its mandate. He also referred to the undesirability of taking any action that might unintentionally have an unhelpful effect on the ongoing multilateral peace negotiation process.

326. Two representatives noted inconsistencies in the Arab version of the report. One representative drew attention to a typographical error concerning the population figure in paragraph 6 of the document, which should read 150,000 and not 15,000.

327. The comments were noted by the Assistant Executive Director, who said they would be incorporated as necessary.

## IV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND DRAFT DECISIONS

328. The draft report of the Programme Committee (UNEP/GC.17/PC/L.2 and Add.1-5) was considered by the Committee at its 9th and 10th meetings, held on Friday 14 May 1993, and at its 11th meeting, on Saturday 15 May. The draft was considered paragraph by paragraph and oral amendments were introduced from the floor. The present report, which incorporates all the agreed amendments, was adopted by the Committee at its 11th meeting, on Saturday 15 May 1993.

329. In view of the decision adopted by the Council at its 2nd plenary meeting, held on Friday 14 May 1993, that all draft decisions emanating from the sessional committees would be chanelled through the negotiating committee to the plenary for its consideration, the Programme Committee did not take up the draft decisions before it.

330. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairman declared that the Committee had concluded its work, at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday 15 May 1993.

*Annex III*

## REPORT OF THE FUND COMMITTEE

### A. *Introduction*

1. Under the chairmanship of the Vice-President, Mr. Erik Fiil (Denmark), the Fund Committee held 10 meetings between 10 and 14 May 1993, to consider agenda item 8 (The Environment Fund, other financial matters and administration).

2. At the 1st meeting of the Committee, held on 10 May 1993, the Committee approved the organization of its work as proposed in UNEP/GC.17/FC/L.1. At the second meeting of the Committee, also on 10 May 1993, Mr. Jusuf P. Nugroho (Indonesia) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

3. In considering the item, the Committee had before it the following documentation: the report of the Executive Director on on-site interpretation facilities at Gigiri, Nairobi (UNEP/GC.17/3); the report of the Executive Director on the periodicity and duration of sessions of the Governing Council (UNEP/GC.17/8); the note by the Executive Director on the Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1990-1991 ended 31 December 1991 (UNEP/GC.17/13); the report of the Executive Director on the use of resources in 1992-1993 and proposed use of projected resources in 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 (UNEP/GC.17/16), supplemented by her report to update the figures contained in the former document (UNEP/GC.17/16/Add.1); the report of the Executive Director on the programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1992-1993 and proposed budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (UNEP/GC.17/17), supplemented by her report on the provision of language facilities to the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/17/Add.1); the report of the Executive Director on the management of trust funds and counterpart contributions (UNEP/GC.17/19); the report of the Executive Director on improvement of facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNEP/GC.17/21), supplemented by her report on the Mercure project (UNEP/GC.17/21/Add.1); the report of the Executive Director on the Global Environment Facility (UNEP/GC.17/23); the executive summary of the management and organization study of UNEP (UNEP/GC.17/26); the report of the Executive Director on general policy issues (UNEP/GC.17/28 and Corr.1); the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the performance report on the PPSC budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and the proposed budget for PPSC for the biennium 1994-1995 (UNEP/GC.17/L.1); the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on proposals for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of UNEP in fulfilling its mandate (UNEP/GC.17/L.2); draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.6 and UNEP/GC.17/L.6/Add.1); and a note by the secretariat on planning and budgeting terminology (UNEP/GC.17/Inf.3).

4. The Chairman, referring to document UNEP/GC.17/FC/L.1, set out the timetable for the 10 meetings of the Fund Committee. If at all possible, he said, the Committee should try to conclude its work earlier than the deadline set. He emphasized that the matters included under agenda item 8, namely, the Environment Fund, financial matters and administration, were of essential importance and he urged the Committee to be both realistic and constructive in its deliberations.

5. In his introductory remarks, the Deputy Executive Director outlined the issues facing the Fund Committee. He stressed that the agenda was more wide-ranging than at previous sessions. This year the Committee was also

asked to consider how the UNEP budgets might be restructured, whether there was any consensus on changing the basis of contributions to the Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the proposals of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of UNEP, on-site interpretation facilities at Gigiri, the periodicity and duration of sessions of the Governing Council and the provision of language facilities to the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The first priority of the Committee, he continued, was to advise the Programme Committee of the sum of money it should programme in terms of activities for 1994-1995, since that Committee could not really start its work without being apprised of the figure agreed by the Fund Committee.

B. *The Environment Fund: availability and use of resources*

6. The Deputy Executive Director, introducing the documents to be used by the Fund Committee in its deliberations on the size of the programme of Fund activities for 1994-1995 to be approved by the Committee, noted that contributions had been received at a lower level in the first quarter of 1992, which had made it necessary to exercise caution when entering into new commitments at the beginning of that year. In the second quarter of the year, programme implementation had been influenced by the fact that staff were concentrating attention on preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and, over the year as a whole, project commitments were lower than might have been expected and expenditure on Fund activities achieved a level of only $36.3 million.

7. Because the estimated contributions for 1992 and 1993 were lower than were required to finance the Fund Programme, by the beginning of 1993 it became apparent that the Programme had to be reduced from $150 million to $120 million. Moreover, the Committee of Permanent Representatives had recommended that the programme be further reduced in 1993 in order to have a higher programme in 1994-1995. The Deputy Executive Director explained the various financial scenarios presented in documents UNEP/GC.17/16 and Add.1.

8. Several representatives expressed their appreciation of the quality of the documentation provided by the secretariat.

9. The representative of New Zealand pointed out that her Government had made a contribution to the Environment Fund in 1992 that had not been reflected in annex III of document UNEP/GC.17/16 before the Committee.

10. Another representative pointed out that in 1992 her country had paid $2.2 million to the Environment Fund, whereas only $1.1 million was included in the document before the Committee. The Deputy Executive Director explained that, of the $2.2 million, half was recorded as that country's contribution to the Environment Fund and the other half constituted a counterpart contribution for specific activities.

11. A number of representatives expressed disappointment at the low level of contributions for the current biennium, particularly in the light of the commitments made by the Governments that had attended UNCED.

12. A number of representatives called for a broadened base of contributions to the Environment Fund to prevent the financial burden from being regularly borne by the same few countries.

13. The representative of Poland informed the Committee that his country which, due to severe economic problems, had been unable to contribute to the Environment Fund, had, since 1991, resumed its contributions. The level of future contributions would be announced in the plenary meeting.

14. Many representatives stressed that, given the low level of contributions recorded, it was necessary to recommend realistic appropriation levels for the 1994-1995 biennium.

15. The representative of Norway expressed his Government's profound concern and disappointment at the small size of the Fund Programme for 1994-1995 in light of the funding apparently available, representing as it did a retreat from the assurances of additional support for UNEP that had been given at UNCED and an abandonment of the contribution target of $100 million by 1992 that had been approved by the Governing Council at its fifteenth session and reaffirmed at its sixteenth session. He mentioned that Norway had increased its contribution by 35 per cent annually for three years, in line with the pledges made at the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Governing Council, and that that level of support would be maintained in the future. He asked that his statement be fully reflected in the report of the Fund Committee.

16. One representative pointed out that the contributions to the Environment Fund were - and should remain - voluntary and that the application of the United Nations scale of assessment was not a viable option. It was the capacity of countries to contribute that mattered. He reminded the Committee that UNCED had recognized the need for developed countries to assist developing countries in the implementation of sustainable development. Several other representatives expressed their preference for the voluntary nature of the Environment Fund and noted that the adoption of assessed contributions might even lead to a reduction of the current level of their contributions.

17. Another representative called for the Governments to make early pledges and payments to the Fund. Yet another representative suggested the establishment of a separate voluntary fund for UNCED follow-up activities by UNEP. Failing that, he said, some other separate form of UNCED follow-up was needed.

18. The representative of Japan pledged that his Government would increase its 1993 contribution by more than ten per cent over its 1992 contribution.

19. The representative of Australia pledged that his country would maintain the same contribution in real terms in the 1992-1993 biennium.

20. The representative of Austria announced that his country's 1993 contribution would be 20 per cent greater than its 1992 contribution.

21. The representative of the Netherlands indicated his continued strong support for the Environment Fund and stated that his country would maintain the current level of its contributions.

22. The representative of Finland expressed her country's intention to maintain its 1993 contribution to the Fund at the same level as in 1992 and stated that it would endeavour to maintain future contributions at a level as close as possible to that of previous years.

23. Two representatives expressed concern at the diminishing contributions to the Fund at a time when contributions to the Global Environment Facility were increasing to far higher levels.

24. After reviewing the various options for the 1994-1995 biennium level of funding, the Committee decided to base its recommendations to the Programme Committee on estimated contributions for the biennium of $135 million. That, together with a cut-back in 1993 commitments of $10 million, would give some assurance that a core programme of Fund activities could be proposed at a level of $120 million. It was decided that the lett er to be sent to the Chairman of the Programme Committee should thus request his Committee to prepare a core programme of $120 million for Fund Programme Activities in 1994-1995 and to identify

additional activities amounting to $10 million, to be regarded as a first supplementary programme for implementation if and when sufficient resources became available.*

25. The Fund Committee also decided to request the Programme Committee to prepare a second supplementary programme of $30 million, for implementation subsequent to the first supplementary programme of $10 million, in the event that contributions increased at a rate faster than the Fund Committee currently believed to be possible.*

26. In discussing the text of the letter to the Programme Committee, the representative of Norway said that he wished it to reflect the disappointment he felt, which was shared by others, that the proposed size of the Fund Programme for 1994-1995 represented a retreat from indications of additional support to UNEP given at UNCED and from the target for annual contributions of $100 million by 1992, approved by the Governing Council at its fifteenth session and reaffirmed at the sixteenth session.

27. Several representatives agreed that, although it would be useful to reflect in the letter the disappointment over the fact that funding for the 1994-1995 biennium would not reach the $100 million target, it was also necessary to underline that the level of funding recommended was based on the need for a realistic approach to planning.

28. A number of representatives said it was necessary that the letter reflect the argument that the proposed funding level for 1994-1995 was provisional, as Agenda 21 had given UNEP a broader mandate and therefore UNEP needed far more resources. Thus, there was a need to continue exploring possibilities for additional funding.

29. The Committee reached agreement that the most appropriate action would be to maintain the letter in its traditional form and transmit to the Programme Committee only the planning figures for the 1994-1995 biennium. The Committee agreed to discuss the other policy matters raised at a more appropriate point on the agenda.

### C. *Programme and programme support costs*

30. Introducing the Programme and progamme supports costs (PPSC) the Chief of the Administrative Service outlined the revised budget estimates for 1992-1993 and the proposed budget for 1994-1995, pointing out that their overall presentation was in conformity with the relevant United Nations budgetary regulations, rules and practices. The revised estimates for 1992-1993, he said, had been reduced from $38,730,100 to $37,818,600 and the factors leading to the proposed reduction were currency fluctuations and inflation.

31. The proposed PPSC budget estimates of $43,612,300 for 1994-1995, he went on, had been drawn up with due regard for the stipulation of the Governing Council in previous years that the PPSC budget was to be contained within 33 per cent of the projected contributions. Having highlighted the proposed changes set out in paragraph 18 of document UNEP/GC.17/17, he went on to explain that the number of posts funded by PPSC would remain at 295 and that the budget estimates were based on the assumption that 5 per cent of Professional posts and 0.5 per cent of local-level posts would remain vacant during the biennium 1994-1995.

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* The secretariat informed the Committee, in connection with its recommendations to the Programme Committee for the 1994-1995 biennium level of funding, that the Group of 77 and China had submitted a draft decision to the Programme Committee concerning the priorities for Fund Programme Activities in that biennium.

32. He further stated that, if the Governing Council agreed to the recommendations of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the format of UNEP's budget would be restructured with effect from the 1996-1997 biennium.

33. Several representatives complimented the secretariat on its presentation and on containing the PPSC budget within the appropriate limits.

34. One representative pointed out that the PPSC budget was at the same level as two years previously and, in view of the fact that the programme budget had been reduced, he wondered why the level of the PPSC budget had not been affected in the same way. The Chief of the Administrative Service replied that the PPSC budget did not have a one-to-one relationship with the Programme budget. The PPSC budget was not for administration only, but was a core budget and was not necessarily influenced by the level of the Programme budget. Therefore, movement in the Programme budget would not result in a commensurate movement in the PPSC budget.

35. Several representatives sought clarification on the effect that the recent devaluation of the Kenya Shilling would have on the PPSC budget for 1994-1995. One of them asked whether the budget had taken into account the financial benefits that would accrue from the new relationship between UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). He also asked whether the effects of the recommendations made in the report of the consultants who had undertaken the management study of UNEP had been considered in the preparation of the budget.

36. The Chief of the Administrative Service replied that the documentation had been prepared using December 1992 rates. The effect of the devaluation of the Kenya Shilling would be reflected during the revision of the 1994-1995 estimates. With regard to the collaboration between UNEP and Habitat, he stated that the Secretary-General's proposals had been received in mid-March 1993 only - too late for inclusion in the budget. Concerning the management study report, he pointed out that the UNEP management was waiting for the views of the Governing Council on the issue.

37. One representative wished to know the extent to which the reduction in the size of PPSC budget could be attributed to the shifting of posts from PPSC to Fund Programme activities. The Deputy Executive Director replied that there had been no transfers of posts between the PPSC and the Fund Programme activities, but that there had been an increase in the number of posts financed within Fund activities.

38. The same representative, referring to annex II of document UNEP/GC.17/17, relating to the rate of inflation used, asked whether due regard had been paid to the weighting of the major currencies in which UNEP's expenditures were incurred. He suggested that the increase in the budget for 1994-1995 should be closer to 10 per cent as against the 15 per cent indicated in the budget document. The representative also said he believed that United Nations Headquarters provided a world-wide inflation rate for use by organizations in formulating budgets. Replying to the points raised, the Chief of Administrative Service explained that no uniform world-wide rate was supplied by United Nations Headquarters. The inflation rates used were calculated on a location-by-location basis.

39. One representative wanted to know whether, in formulating the 1994-1995 budget, UNEP had taken into account the cost of implementing Agenda 21 of UNCED. The Deputy Executive Director replied that that had not been the case.

40. On the question of a supplementary appropriation of $4,207,500 toward the creation of posts, as contained in paragraph 5 of document UNEP/GC.17/17, several representatives wanted the proposal deleted, stating that it was a supplementary proposal for which the required funding could

not be found. However, several other representatives wanted the proposal to stay. The Deputy Executive Director agreed that, in view of the fact that it was unlikely that the conditions required for implementation would be met and in line with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the proposal would be left out.

41. After further deliberations among several representatives, a proposal to recalculate the vacancy rate for Professional posts at 10 per cent instead of 5 per cent was agreed. The new proposal was expected to reduce the PPSC budget by $870,500, thus bringing it to $42,741,800.

42. One representative asked what the period of validity of unliquidated obligations was. The Chief of the Administrative Service explained that unliquidated obligations were kept valid for a period of twelve months after the end of the biennium.

43. The same representative asked for some clarification of the increases in the provision under a number of budget lines. The Chief of the Administrative Service provided the necessary clarifications.

44. Another representative wished to know the specific programmes in which consultants were employed by UNEP in the first months of 1993. The Chief of the Administrative Service explained that consultants were employed in areas where UNEP did not have the necessary in-house expertise and/or did not need such expertise on a permanent basis. Details for 1993 would be made available later.

45. Yet another representative wanted to know the budget lines affected by the proposed reduction of some $870,000 from the total budget of $43,612,300. The Chief of the Administrative Service explained that the reduction would affect "established posts" and "common staff cost".

46. One representative presented an analysis that a review of the audited statements of UNEP from the biennium 1980-1981 to 1992-1993 revealed that, on average, final expenditures tended to be some $1.6 million below the appropriations voted by the Governing Council. He thought that, in view of that historical background, it would be fair to look for a saving of a further $1 million per annum, and would hence propose a PPSC budget for 1994-1995 of $41,612,300, instead of $43,612 300.

47. In the light of that intervention, the Deputy Executive Director stated that, if reductions were to be effected, an amount of $412,400 for "Ad hoc expert groups" and $500,000 for "Furniture and equipment" could be deleted, in addition to bringing the vacancy rate to 10 per cent for professional posts. That would bring the 1994-1995 estimate to $41,829,500. The Committee agreed to the revised proposal amounting to $41,829,500.

D. *Additional sources of funding and management of trust funds*

48. The Chief, Fund Programme Management Branch, introduced the documentation on management of trust funds and counterpart contributions, at the same time pointing out that two new trust funds not mentioned in the documentation had been approved by the Executive Director and would require the endorsement of the Governing Council. The Committee was informed that, in 1992, the Secretary-General had given the Executive Director the authority to establish both technical cooperation trust funds and general trust funds. It was further informed that no consensus had been reached on the amalgamation of trust funds.

49. Concern had been expressed that the growth of the trust funds and counterpart contributions might be at the expense of contributions to the Environment Fund and at the administrative burden on the secretariat that resulted. However, after a further review of the issue, the trust funds did not pose much of a burden, since the 13 per cent programme support costs offset the administrative load.

50. A number of representatives expressed their continued concern at the proliferation of trust funds and urged the secretariat to keep up its efforts to explore various ways of reducing the number of trust funds.

51. Several representatives expressed their appreciation to the donors to the trust funds and counterpart contributions, stating that those extrabudgetary resources had supplemented the programme activities.

52. One representative recognized the difficulty of amalgamating trust funds due to the varying internal requirements of donors. He went on to say that counterpart contributions were often provided at the express request of UNEP and did not necessarily represent a diversion of contributions from the Environment Fund. Some were used to finance activities that would have otherwise had to be financed from the Environment Fund. His Government - whose contributions had always been additional - had not been aware of the administrative burden of counterpart contributions and, if information on the subject had been provided, it might have been possible to make a provision for those costs.

53. Several representatives expressed their concern that the proliferation of the trust funds and the growing counterpart contributions might lead to a long-term imbalance in the Fund Programme activities, as resources were being earmarked for the trust funds and counterpart contributions at the expense of the Environment Fund.

54. The Committee agreed to adopt the suggested Governing Council decisions including the request to establish: (a) The Trust Fund for the Establishment of the Interim Secretariat of the Biological Diversity Convention and (b) The Technical Cooperation Trust Fund on Land Degradation Assessment and Mapping, which were not included in the documentation before the Committee. It was further agreed that an additional paragraph would be prepared by the drafting committee for addition to the draft decision, without entering into any other issues in the document, to cover the concern expressed regarding the possible long-term imbalance of resources.

### E. *Provision of language facilities for the Committee of Permanent Representatives*

55. In introducing document UNEP/GC.17/17/Add.1 on the provision of language facilities for the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Chief of the Administrative Service traced the developments that had occurred since the sixteenth session of the Governing Council. He indicated that, as against UNEP's proposal that the regular budget should bear the entire cost of that activity, the Secretary-General had proposed that the cost be shared between the regular budget and the Environment Fund at a rate of 25 per cent and 75 per cent respectively.

56. Several representatives expressed support for the Secretary-General's proposals. However, a number of representatives felt that the regular budget should bear the entire cost of such language facilities.

57. One representative wished to know the cost of providing interpretation services from locally available sources. In reply, the Officer-in-Charge of Conferences Services explained that only three multilingual interpreters were available in Nairobi. On the other hand, providing a permanent team in Nairobi on a regular basis would be very costly and would not represent a cost-saving factor.

58. The Deputy Executive Director pointed out that the cost of providing conference services to the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund, which were also funded entirely on a voluntary basis, were borne by the regular budget of the United Nations. Therefore, in the case of UNEP, also a subsidiary organ of the United Nations, those costs should be borne by the regular budget. The Deputy Executive Director further pointed out that the question of whether the cost of providing language facilities in UNEP should be borne by the regular budget and not by the Environment Fund was more a question of principle than of the costs involved. Many delegations concurred in that conclusion.

59. One representative stated that, as both UNDP and UNICEF had no bodies comparable to the Committee of Permanent Representatives in UNEP, there was thus no basis for comparison. He went on to express his opposition to the funding of the language facilities for the meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives from the regular budget.

60. Another representative opposed requesting the Secretary-General to review his proposals, on the basis that the need for full language facilities to service meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives had not been demonstrated.

61. The Deputy Executive Director responded that, having agreed to a cut in the PPSC budget by $1.8 million, that expenditure would add back $645,000 to the reduced total just agreed by the Committee. He said he was, therefore, in a quandary as to what to do. He asked the Committee to decide on the issue.

62. Two representatives noted that Nairobi was the only United Nations headquarters without in-house interpretation facilities. One of them added that, since UNEP was a Programme of the United Nations and not a specialized agency like the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the cost of providing interpretation facilities for the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives should be borne by the United Nations regular budget. He commented further that to deny the Committee interpretation facilities would make its work less useful.

63. Several representatives suggested that the idea of having in-house interpretation facilities should be explored further, as it could be economical in the long run if such facilities could also be provided to meetings of other United Nations bodies in Nairobi.

64. Two representatives considered that the issue was best left to the General Assembly to discuss.

65. The Committee concluded that funds for interpretation facilities for the Committee of Permanent Representatives should not come from the Environment Fund and that the Secretary-General should be requested to reconsider his position and have the costs of the interpretation facilities for the meetings of the Committee of Permanent Representatives borne under the United Nations regular budget. One representative maintained his delegation's opposition to the funding of those costs from the regular budget, proposing that if necessary, they should be borne by the Environment Fund. Another representative said that his delegation reserved its position.

### F. *The future structure of the UNEP budgets*

66. Introducing the Executive Director's note on the subject UNEP/GC.17/26, the Chief of the Administrative Service drew the attention of the Committee to draft decision IV contained in the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (UNEP/GC.17/L.2) which requested the Executive Director to revise the current format of the budget in such a manner that a clear distinction was made between programme delivery and administrative overheads - the Fund Programme would include only programme management and delivery; the PPSC would become an administrative and support costs budget. It also requested the Executive Director to provide definitions and rules for deciding what expenditure should be charged to which budget.

67. He indicated that the proposals put forward by the Committee of Permanent Representatives regarding the format and structure of future UNEP budgets were in line with the thinking of the secretariat.

68. There was general agreement on the draft decision proposed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, with the exception of paragraph 5 of the draft decision which, it was agreed, should be deleted.

### G. *Basis of contributions to the Environment Fund*

69. Introducing the item, the Deputy Executive Director drew the attention of the Committee to document UNEP/GC.17/28 and Corr.1, paragraphs 54 to 58, document UNEP/GC.17/L.2 and the annexes to document UNEP/GC.17/16. He said that the topic had been made a separate sub-item of the agenda for two reasons, namely:

(a) The Governing Council, in its decision 16/44, requested the Executive Director to consider ways of ensuring a more stable and wider basis for voluntary contributions to the Environment Fund and to report thereon to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session; and

(b) The Committee of Permanent Representatives, in its report on proposals for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of UNEP in fulfilling its mandate, had noted that there had been no noticeable increase in contributions to the Environment Fund in recent months and that that was a disturbing trend, especially in view of the expectations that had been aroused by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which needed to be considered in depth by the Governing Council.

70. The Deputy Executive Director also referred to the report entitled "Financing an Effective United Nations", submitted to the Secretary-General by an independent group. That report suggested that programmes funded by voluntary contributions should have their administrative expenditures financed by assessed contributions and that agencies in that situation should seek a larger proportion of their funding from multi-year negotiated pledges. The Executive Director would be interested to hear whether the Governing Council thought that those recommendations could provide a viable basis for UNEP's funding.

71. He went on to say that some figures relevant to the issue were to be found in table 2 in document UNEP/GC.17/16, which revealed that 96.3 per cent of 1992 contributions were paid by only 15 countries. The remaining 3.7 per cent was contributed by 61 countries, while over 100 States Members of the United Nations contributed nothing at all. The Executive Director was not proposing that the United Nations scale of assessment should be applied to the Environment Fund, but she thought that it should be seen as an indicative guide.

72. In conclusion, he stated that the Executive Director would like the issue of burden-sharing to be addressed by the Governing Council, which should also consider whether, as had been suggested, all or part of the budget should be financed by assessed contributions.

73. Many representatives took the view that there should be no change in the voluntary nature of the Environment Fund. They agreed, however, that the resource base should be broadened and that those countries which were not already contributing to the Fund should be asked to do so. However small a contribution might be, it was a symbolic demonstration of a country's commitment to the cause of the environment. It was also suggested that a number of countries could be expected to contribute at a higher level than their current one. Prompt and timely payment of pledged contributions was also emphasized by many representatives.

74. Several representatives of developing countries expressed the view that the States mainly responsible for the damage to the environment should bear the lion's share of the cost of remedying that damage by making larger contributions.

75. The idea of multi-year negotiated pledges was extensively discussed, but a number of representatives stated that, in many cases, they were ruled out by national legislative procedures. Two of those representatives further stated that, although they could not support multi-year pledges, some long-term indications of pledges could, however, be given to the secretariat. The representative of the United States of America indicated that his Government would be seeking Congressional approval for $23.85 million as its 1994 contribution to the Environment Fund and would welcome indications of contribution from others. One representative observed that , were more members to contribute and total contributions increase, those major donors adhering to percentage guidelines in setting their contributions would be stimulated to encourage more.

76. Two other representatives expressed the view that there was a tendency for major donor countries to divert part of their contributions from the Environment Fund to trust funds designed to finance specific projects. Several representatives of major donor countries said that that was not the case.

77. Summarizing the discussion, the Deputy Executive Director said that it was encouraging to note that virtually all developing countries agreed that all countries, even the smallest, should contribute to the Environment Fund and that it was the first time that there had been such an enthusiastic commitment on the part of that group of countries.

### H. *Envelope for the preparation of the Programme budget for 1996-1997*

78. In his opening remarks, the Deputy Executive Director reminded the Committee that it had been the tradition of the Governing Council to provide the secretariat with an envelope on the size of the Fund Programme for the biennium following the next as a planning guideline for proposals to be presented at the next regular session of the Governing Council. He pointed out that an estimated level of contributions and a tentative Fund Programme for 1996-1997 of $130 million had already been mentioned when the Fund Committee reluctantly decided to limit the 1994-1995 Fund Programme to $120 million.

79. The Deputy Executive Director went on to say that, in the light of the concern expressed by some representatives over the expected diminishing of the balance of the Fund to $2.32 million by the end of 1997, as indicated in the projections discussed earlier, the secretariat reluctantly wished to

propose for consideration a 1996-1997 Fund Programme of $120 million. That would increase the balance of the Fund by the end of 1997 to a more viable level of $11 million. In conclusion, he added that the choice was a very unhappy one, but was nevertheless based on the previous discussion of expected contribution levels and was a reflection of the theme of realism underlined by so many representatives. He emphasized, however, that such a programme could not be seen as sufficient for UNEP to implement its appropriate role under Agenda 21, which had been the subject of substantial comment in the Committee earlier.

80. In discussing the size of the 1996-1997 Fund Programme, many representatives said that it was evident that the sum of $120 million for 1996-1997 was too low. In justifying that opinion, the following factors were cited: the fact that the United States Government was seeking, subject to the availability of funds as determined by the United States Congress, to provide $23.85 million as its contribution to the Environment Fund for 1994; the discussion on broadening the base of contributions; the commitment made by many countries to make early pledges and early payments; and the fact that it would no longer be so necessary for UNEP to operate with a high end-of-year Fund balance.

81. The Committee agreed to propose for the biennium 1996-1997 a Fund Programme of $130 million for the core programme and $20 million for the supplementary programme.

### I. *Fund programme reserve*

82. The Deputy Executive Director, having referred the Committee to paragraph 36 of the Executive Director's report (UNEP/GC.17/16), said that the Fund Programme reserve was established by rule 209.3 of the Financial Rules of the Fund and was an unprogrammed appropriation approved by the Governing Council over and above the appropriations for PPSC and the Fund Programme "to meet unforeseen needs, to finance unanticipated projects or phases of projects and to meet such other purposes as may be determined from time to time by the Governing Council." The Council had approved a Fund Programme reserve of $5 million for the 1992-1993 biennium. The Executive Director proposed that the same figure should be approved for 1994-1995.

83. The Committee decided to recommend that proposal to the Governing Council.

### J. *The Fund Financial Reserve*

84. The Deputy Executive Director said that rule 209.2 of the Fund of UNEP provided that there "should be established a financial reserve, the level of which shall be determined from time to time by the Governing Council on the recommendation of the Executive Director. The purpose of the financial reserve shall be to guarantee the liquidity and integrity of the Fund, to compensate for uneven cash flows and to meet such other similar requirements as may be decided upon by the Governing Council. The latter shall keep the level of the financial reserve under constant review, taking into account the estimated income and expenditure for the following biennium." The Council had last determined the Financial Reserve in 1987. It had then represented a sum of $6,588,473 for that biennium and for every subsequent one, as the Council had decided not to increase the Reserve for either 1990-1991 or 1992-1993. The issue had been discussed at some length at the sixteenth session of the Council, in the Fund Committee, and it had been decided that since an increase in the Financial Reserve required that cash be actually set aside, which would thus not be available for programming, no increase would be made. On that occasion, the Executive Director had proposed an increase in the Reserve to $10 million, a proposal

that had not proved acceptable. For the same reason, the Executive Director was not currently recommending any increase. There was, in fact, no mention of the issue in any of the documents, but he felt that the secretariat was under an obligation to mention it; hence its inclusion in the agenda.

### K. *Environment Fund: financial reports and audited accounts for the biennium 1990-1991*

85. The Chief of the Administrative Service said that the financial report and financial statements for the biennium 1990-1991 had been reviewed by the Board of Auditors which had indicated that they presented fairly the financial position of UNEP. They had also been considered by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), which had made some observations thereon. The General Assembly had subsequently accepted the report, the financial statements and the audit opinions of the Board and approved the comments of the Board of Auditors and the ACABQ.

86. As set forth in the Executive Director's note (UNEP/GC.17/13), two recommendations had been made: that UNEP should review the composition of technical cooperation trust funds and submit proposals to its Governing Council for merging some of them and that a master inventory listing should be made of all non-expendable UNEP property, including inventory holdings in regional offices. As the Committee was aware, it had not proved possible to arrange a merger of the trust funds. The master inventory was almost complete, but some information had still to be obtained from two outposted offices.

87. In answer to a question from one representative concerning delays in the submission of travel claims, the Chief of the Administrative Service explained that experts, consultants and participants in meetings were advanced 80 per cent of their estimated entitlements. The remainder was paid once the appropriate travel claims had been submitted and processed. The frequent - sometimes lengthy - delays in submitting travel claims were, in fact, to UNEP's financial advantage but constituted an accounting problem.

88. The Committee decided to transmit the Executive Director's note (UNEP/GC.17/13) to the Governing Council.

### L. *The Global Environment Facility*

89. Introducing the sub-item, the Deputy Executive Director highlighted the ongoing restructuring of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNEP's role as one of the three implementing agencies. He also pointed out that a number of key issues had still to be resolved at the meetings of the GEF participants to be held shortly in Beijing and subsequently in December 1993. He further stated that it was expected that the restructured GEF would be given legal status by a resolution of the participants, most probably in December 1993. UNEP's role under the restructured GEF following that resolution would then need to be confirmed by a decision of the Governing Council, which obviously could not be taken at the current session.

90. Several representatives expressed their appreciation for the role played by UNEP in the implementation of the GEF through STAP.

91. Several other representatives defined UNEP's role as providing intellectual input and serving as an "environmental conscience" for GEF projects.

92. Several representatives said that they would like to see UNEP's role strengthened during the restructuring of GEF. Several others expressed the opinion that there was a need to define clearly UNEP's role in relation to GEF and also mentioned the need for coordination among the implementing agencies. One of them further stated that her delegation would like to see a broad mandate for UNEP in all questions of strategy.

93. One representative took the view that UNEP must clarify its relationship with GEF and ensure that its role did not give rise to a conflict of interest.

94. Several representatives expressed the fear that increased funding to GEF could be at the expense of increased contributions by Governments to the Environment Fund. One of them stated that it was essential that that concern was presented to the Beijing meeting. Another representative pointed out that GEF was a financial mechanism, while UNEP had its own specific role.

95. In response to a question from one representative concerning how much had been spent to date, the Deputy Executive Director replied that $18.6 million had been disbursed for projects and other activities by 31 December 1992.

96. Regarding the financing of new activities, one representative stated that GEF should be active in the agreed four areas. Other areas could be included only if they could fit into the present structure. Opening "new windows" should be deferred.

97. Several representatives stressed the importance of the evaluation process being perceived as objective. While one of them questioned whether evaluations undertaken within each individual agency would be perceived as credible and objective, another supported the existing system of evaluations. Yet another representative gave an account of his Government's experience with a GEF mission to his country to select projects for funding by GEF. A number of projects had been selected and later rejected by GEF. He requested that that experience be included in the evaluation.

98. Although one representative expressed the opinion that it was inappropriate for the Committee to discuss the funding of UNEP's GEF staff, as it would be reimbursed from GEF funds, several other representatives were of the opinion that GEF staff should be funded from the Environment Fund. Several other representatives said that clarification on the source of funding for staff should be sought at the forthcoming GEF participants' meeting in Beijing.

99. A number of representatives stressed the importance of GEF to developing countries, but were of the opinion that its activities should be expanded to give greater emphasis to projects that addressed the needs of developing countries.

100. Several other representatives sought clarification on the way in which the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) was recruited and one of them stressed the need for greater transparency in the selection of STAP members. The Deputy Executive Director described the process that would be used to appoint expert scientists for the STAP to be reconstituted later in the current year and stated that the new STAP must be made up of individuals whose selection was based on scientific competence. The Executive Director was open to receive nominations from Governments, agencies, non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions.

## M. *Proposals to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of UNEP in fulfilling its mandate*

101. The Chairman of the Fund Committee invited the Chairman of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to introduce the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives contained in document UNEP/GC.17/L.2. The latter explained that the report was the result of a request by the Governing Council at its third special session to study and prepare proposals for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of UNEP.

102. He stated that the report reflected views which enjoyed very broad support on issues of prime importance for the future functioning of UNEP. The issues deserving the attention of the Governing Council were: institutional arrangements; financial management and structure; communications; and management style.

103. He concluded by expressing appreciation for the excellent atmosphere of cooperation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives that had been introduced by the new Executive Director.

104. Several representatives expressed their appreciation of the report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and two of them recommended it to the Executive Director for her guidance.

105. Two representatives felt that the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the one hand, and the Executive Director and the Secretariat on the other, should act as mutual sounding boards. The Committee of Permanent Representatives should serve as a vehicle for signals from Governments to the Executive Director.

106. Two representatives stressed that the Committee of Permanent Representatives should not go into micro-management and pointed out that there would be no need for it to do so if the current atmosphere of mutual trust continued.

107. Several representatives also noted with appreciation the Executive Director's cooperation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to date.

108. With regard to the recommendations of the study on the management and organization of UNEP, several representatives believed that there was a need for the Executive Director to spell out her position more clearly.

109. Two representatives found the study useful, but considered that it had exceeded its mandate in several areas. Other representatives found the study to be of very little use and stressed that the cost of the study - $520.000 - was absolutely unacceptable and should not create any precedent for the future.

110. One representative supported the Executive Director's policy on prioritization, as well as her policy to make UNEP more transparent and efficient.

111. Another representative considered that the effectiveness of UNEP representation outside Nairobi should be improved. He called for a radical review of the geographical locations and resources of regional and liaison offices and outposted staff with a view to improving the provision of UNEP's products and services.

N. *Improvement of facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi*

112. In introducing the item, the Deputy Executive Director reported that construction of the new offices at Gigiri was expected to be completed shortly, and all offices in the Gigiri complex were being wired for the new telephone system. The Kenya Posts and Telecommunication authorities had installed three fibre-optic cables to Gigiri from three separate telephone exchanges. When connected to the new Gigiri system, those would provide three alternative routings for both inward and outward communications.

113. He further informed the Committee that UNEP had received a provisional offer of a donation to UNEP of 16 satellite ground receiving stations that would provide an initial framework for a global satellite communications system. In order to initiate that project, called the Mercure project, he sought a "go-ahead" in principle. UNEP would have to accept responsibility for the operational costs of that project, but it must be stressed that it represented a window of opportunity to link UNEP offices together and to link UNEP with developing countries, particularly for the transmission of environmental data.

114. In conclusion, he proposed a draft decision by which the Governing Council would authorize the Executive Director to follow up the proposal of the participating group whereby, providing a satisfactory offer was confirmed, she would be authorized to enter into an agreement on the project.

115. One representative expressed agreement with the proposed draft decision.

116. Another representative, while noting the importance of the project to developing countries through its contribution to Earthwatch, raised the question of compatibility with other communications systems within the United Nations system, emphasizing the need for cooperation. The Deputy Executive Director replied that compatibility was assured, since both systems would be operating through Intelsat satellites.

117. Following an expression of concern by the host country over what was considered a lack of consultation concerning the project, and further discussions with the secretariat, a statement was issued in which the host country approved the Executive Director's proposal to finalize an agreement with the participants in the Mercure project, so long as there was full prior consultation with and consent of the Government of Kenya, taking into account existing communication facilities in the country.

O. *Interpretation facilities at Gigiri*

118. In introducing this item, the representative of the secretariat stated that the various options had been investigated and it had been concluded that continuing with the existing system was more economical than having an established team of interpreters in Nairobi.

119. Several representatives stressed the desirability of maintaining an established team of interpreters. It was felt that, if such a team were to be established, its services could be used by all agencies and organizations located in Nairobi and more meetings would therefore be held in the city, making the team more cost-effective.

120. A number of representatives expressed the view that, if such a team were to be established, it should be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations.

121. The Committee agreed that the Executive Director should be requested to look into the matter further and to keep the question under constant review.

P. *Periodicity and duration of Governing Council sessions*

122. In introducing the item, the Deputy Executive Director said that the decision by the Governing Council to hold a special session of the Council in 1994 was no longer valid, since the Executive Director had decided to consult with members of the United Nations system on the mechanisms that would be required to coordinate United Nations activities in the field of the environment. She would report on that topic to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) before reporting back to the Governing Council in 1995. There were other factors which might make annual meetings of the Governing Council valuable. He had already noted the need for the Governing Council to endorse UNEP's role under the Global Environment Facility, if possible in 1994. The fact that the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) would be meeting annually was also something to be considered, although it was not yet known what actions the CSD would require of the Council. A valid case could thus be made for maintaining the current biennial cycle of sessions.

123. The Executive Director felt that it was for the Governing Council to decide whether or not it wished to revert to annual sessions.
124. Several representatives stressed the importance of annual sessions in the light of developments connected with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the CSD. One representative proposed that there should be annual but shorter - one-week - sessions. Two other representatives proposed alternating two-week sessions on programme and budget with one-week sessions on political issues.

125. A number of representatives emphasized the need for flexibility in scheduling sessions.

126. Many representatives were, however, in favour of retaining the current biennial cycle of sessions, while agreeing on the need for flexibility.

127. The Committee decided to recommend to the Council that the status quo be maintained and that it should continue to meet in regular session on a biennial basis, while retaining a certain degree of flexibility to decide when special sessions in even years might be advantageous.

Q. *Action of the Fund Committee*

128. Upon completion of its deliberations on agenda item 8, the Fund Committee adopted the report on its proceedings under the item (UNEP/GC.17/FC/L.2 and Add.1, Add.2, Add.3 and Add.4).

*Annex IV*

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES ON PROPOSALS FOR ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF UNEP IN FULFILLING ITS MANDATE*

1. By its decision SS.III/2 of 5 February 1992, paragraph 11, the Governing Council invited "the Committee of Permanent Representatives together with other interested Governments and in cooperation with the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme to study and prepare proposals for the seventeenth session of the Governing Council for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations Environment Programme in fulfilling its mandate, in accordance with the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the decisions taken by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, also taking into account relevant reports, especially the first- and second-phase studies on the management and organization of the United Nations Environment Programme, prepared in accordance with Governing Council decision 16/6 of 31 May 1991".

2. On the basis of this mandate, an open-ended ad hoc working group of the Committee of Permanent Representatives was established, which considered the following documentation:

(a) Pre-UNCED texts relevant to the mandate of UNEP, i.e., General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, Governing Council decision 1 (I), section I, of 22 June 1973;

(b) The relevant parts of Agenda 21, especially chapter 38, paragraphs 21, 22 and 23;

(c) General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992 (Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development); and

(d) The management and organization study prepared in accordance with Governing Council decision 16/6, phases one and two.

3. Taking into account the work of the ad hoc working group, the Committee of Permanent Representatives presents the following considerations and proposals in accordance with decision SS.III/2, paragraph 11, for appropriate action by the Governing Council.

### I. *UNEP institutional matters*

#### I.1 *General considerations*

4. The Committee of Permanent Representatives is of the view that:

(a) The basic mandate of UNEP continues to be as set forth in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII);

(b) The Governing Council should direct the relative emphasis to be given by the Executive Director in allocating available resources among the areas set out in Agenda 21.

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* Originally circulated as document UNEP/GC.17/L.2 of 6 May 1993. By paragraph 2 of its decision 17/42 of 21 May 1993, the Council decided that the present report should be circulated as an annex to the proceedings of the Council at its seventeenth session. The two annexes containing draft decisions (see paras. 9 and 10 of the text) were acted upon by the Council at its seventeenth session and are not included in the present document.

I.2 *The Governing Council*

5. The role, size and work schedule of the Governing Council are influenced by, among other things, the results of UNCED, the creation of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the need to enhance and strengthen the role of UNEP.

6. The view is widespread within the Committee of Permanent Representatives, that:

(a) The size of the Governing Council should remain at 58 members;

(b) In light of the outcome of UNCED the Governing Council will have to address again the issue of the periodicity of its sessions, as set out in decision 14/4 of 18 June 1987;

(c) An Executive Board is not required;

(d) The Governing Council should reconsider the role and mandate of the Committee of Permanent Representatives with a view to strengthening the Committee of Permanent Representatives as an instrument of the Governing Council; and

(e) The duration of Governing Council meetings should not exceed two weeks, the first week to consist of preparatory work by experts, the second week to be at ministerial level. Should the Governing Council decide to revert to annual meetings, the duration of Council sessions in non-budget (i.e. even-numbered) years should not exceed five working days.

7. With regard to paragraph 6 (a) above, a contrary view was also expressed that, over the last three to four years, a tendency had developed where all States Members of the United Nations wished to participate fully in conferences and intergovernmental negotiations, entirely or partly related to international environmental matters, as for example in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and its Preparatory Committee, the intergovernmental negotiating committees (INCs) for the climate and biological diversity conventions, and - most recently - the INC for a Desertification Convention.

I.3 *The Committee of Permanent Representatives*

8. As a subsidiary body of the Governing Council, the Committee of Permanent Representatives has proved a suitable forum for communication between UNEP and Governments as well as for assessment of UNEP's work between sessions of the Governing Council. It has played an important role in the preparation of the sessions of the Governing Council. The formal as well as informal meetings with the Executive Director and the heads of departments/programme activity centres (PACs) have also been welcome.

9. Nevertheless some aspects of the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives need to be clarified and developed through, *inter alia*, transparency in the secretariat's activities, access for the Committee of Permanent Representatives to information available in the secretariat, responsiveness of the secretariat to queries and concerns expressed and recommendations made to the Executive Director by the Committee of Permanent Representatives. A draft decision for this purpose is annexed to the present report for consideration by the Council (annex I).

II.1 *Financial management and structure*

10. Programme and budget matters have been covered in a report of the Subcommittee on Programme and Budget of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The text of this report, endorsed by the Committee, reads as follows:

"The Subcommittee on Programme and Budget has studied the budget estimates for 1993 and the proposed budgets for 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 (UNEP/GC.17/17, UNEP/GC.17/16 and Add.1, UNEP/GC.17/19 and UNEP/GC.17/7). The Subcommittee has the following comments to offer:

"(a) There has been no noticeable increase in contributions to the Environment Fund in recent months. This is a disturbing trend, especially when viewed in the light of the expectations aroused by UNCED last year. The problem needs to be considered in depth at the forthcoming meeting of the Governing Council. The Subcommittee recommends that the Executive Director be invited to urge countries which have the capacity to contribute but are currently not contributing, or are not contributing enough, to make meaningful contributions to the Environment Fund;

"(b) The Subcommittee is of the view that the flow of contributions to the Environment Fund should be made more predictable. This can be ensured if contributions are paid early in the year and the Governments are encouraged to pledge, commit, or give assurance of contributions on a long-term basis;

"(c) Since it is unlikely that there be an appreciable increase in contributions to the Environment Fund in the near future, the Subcommittee is of the view that UNEP will not be able to fulfil all the responsibilities which have been conferred on it by Agenda 21. It is necessary, therefore, that the Governing Council give guidance to the Executive Director on the relative emphasis to be given by the Executive Director in allocating resources across the identified priority areas;

"(d) The Subcommittee recommends that, in view of the need to prioritize programmes, and because it is desirable that expenditure on programmes is spread more evenly over the years, the Fund programme activities for 1993 should be reduced and those of subsequent year augmented;

"(e) As regards the proposed programmes for the biennium 1994-1995, the Subcommittee proposes that the projections should be based on realistic assessment of likely contributions to the Fund. The Subcommittee is of the view that even the figure of $US 120 million for the programme budget for the biennium would be on the high side. At the same time, to provide for the unlikely contingency of substantial additional funds being forthcoming, UNEP may also be requested to prepare one supplementary budget of $US 20 million. If over and above the amount needed to finance the supplementary programme budget, any substantial amount of money is made available to the Environment Fund, UNEP may seek the guidance of the Governing Council at its next session;

"(f) There is need to reduce the number of project commitments which are cancelled or rephased to later years. The Subcommittee is of the view that early payment of contributions and an increase in pledged, committed or assured contributions will enable UNEP to improve its performance in this regard;

"(g) The overriding objective of revision of the budget format of UNEP is the need to achieve greater transparency and comprehensibility: This requires that a clear distinction be maintained between programme delivery and administrative overheads. The programme and programme support costs (PPSC) budget should be redefined as a programme support costs (PSC) budget. The PSC budget should include only those cross-cutting technical and administrative services that support all substantive subprogrammes. Correspondingly, the fund programme activities (FPA) budget should include only programme management and delivery, principally in the form of projects. The UNEP secretariat should provide an initial definition of precisely what should be included under each budget. That could thereafter be finalized through dialogues with the Committee of Permanent Representatives and its Programme and Budget Subcommittee;

"(h) The structure of the organization should be congruent with the newly rationalized budget format. Accordingly, the Subcommittee recommends that the programme activity centre (PAC) management structure should be extended uniformly across all elements of the organization funded by the FPA budget. Technical and administrative support units funded by the PSC budget should logically be structured centrally;

"(i) The contribution which UNEP received from the United Nations regular budget was originally intended to provide for a small core secretariat and its expenses. However, exactly what posts the regular budget would fund was not clearly defined. At present, the regular budget funds posts distributed throughout the organization, in both programme and technical and administrative support areas. If continued, this will reduce the transparency and clear distinction between programme delivery and administrative overheads which it is hoped will result from the reconstituted FPA and PSC budgets. The Subcommittee therefore recommends that the secretariat discusses with United Nations headquarters in New York the reallocation of regular budget funding to cover posts concentrated in specific designated offices of UNEP (for example the Office of the Executive Director, the Office of the Deputy Executive Director, and conference services) and the transfer of all substantive programme officer posts to the FPA budget."

A draft decision concerning the above points is attached as annex II to the present report.

11. Additional recommendations on other points relating to the financial management and structure are that:

(a) Financial information, especially information on contracts and letting of contracts, should be made readily accessible to the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Such information should also be systematically provided in an updated form at all meetings of the Committee;

(b) Financial responsibility should be decentralized so that each programme manager is responsible for the financial management of his/her programme within its own budget component;

(c) More thorough information is required about which programmes are ongoing and which completed, which have been financially audited and with what results.

II.2 *Priorities and restructuring of UNEP's activities*

12. Judging from recent experience it seems clear that for the time being there will be no significant increase of resources available to UNEP and that strengthening of its performance will have to be achieved by optimizing the use of resources actually available.

13. Despite the potential for increased efficiency and productivity obtainable in this way, not all priority areas identified for UNEP in Agenda 21, para. 38.22, and elsewhere will be able, regrettably, to be resourced at optimal, or perhaps even more than minimal, levels.

14. It is therefore desirable, indeed necessary, that the Governing Council give guidance to the Executive Director on the relative emphasis to be given by the Executive Director in allocating scarce resources across the identified priority areas.

15. The Committee of Permanent Representatives has not attempted to propose a hierarchy of priority areas, seeing this as a high-level policy matter best pursued within the Governing Council at its seventeenth session.

II.3 *Regional representation*

16. There is a strong support for the concept of regional representation of UNEP and also a strong perception that performance in delivering programmes through regional representation needs to be improved. Strengthening of offices away from headquarters should not however have the effect of weakening Nairobi's role as headquarters of UNEP. There appear to be imbalances and anomalies in the present location and functions of existing regional and liaison offices and outposts.

17. It is considered that the Executive Director, in taking measures to strengthen delivery of programmes, should:

(a) Taking into due consideration the need for predictability of funding, seek extra funding where possible from outside sources;

(b) Consider the appropriateness of location of existing regional and liaison offices and outposted staff with a view to rationalization and possible relocation/reallocation. In this process, the exigency of environmental problems in a region, the needs of Governments in relation to them and efficiencies in delivering UNEP programmes relevant to those needs should have a high priority compared to protocol and liaison functions. The latter might well be handled in whole or partly by cooperating United Nations offices;

(c) Clarify the roles and functions of and ensure clear tasking and delegation of responsibility to all offices and staff away from headquarters within UNEP's programmes;

(d) Seek more collaboration by regional representation with local Governments and non-governmental organizations; and

(e) Seek complementarity with associated United Nations agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and regional economic commissions, through, for example, co-location of offices and convention secretariats, and exchange of services.

III. *Communications*

18. Representatives and delegations at UNEP at the United Nations Office at Nairobi have been badly hampered and inconvenienced by inadequate communication facilities.

19. There is a need for a delegates communication centre at UNEP headquarters to include facilities for word-processing, printing, photocopying, documents distribution, local and long-distance telephone calls and facsimile communication as well as temporary offices for use during conferences.

20. It was felt that the publication of information such as that contained in *Mediascan* but with a broader scope and a better language spread would be a useful and indeed welcome tool for the Permanent Representatives in Nairobi. Consideration should be given to ways of providing this service to the Permanent Representatives.

21. With regard to telecommunications facilities, the Permanent Representative of Kenya advised the Committee of Permanent Representatives at its meeting on 26 March 1993 of extensive improvements to the telephone and electronic communications systems at the United Nations office either planned or already being implemented by the Government of Kenya. These improvements are both necessary and welcome.

22. It is recommended that the Executive Director take early steps to effect the improvements outlined above.

IV. *Management style*

23. The management style applicable in the UNEP secretariat will mainly be set by the Executive Director. Her intentions in this regard, as expressed to the meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 26 March 1993, are favourably noted, as encapsulated in the following desirable characteristics:

(a) Teamwork;

(b) Outreach and cooperation;

(c) Transparency and accountability;

(d) Delegation of tasks and responsibilities including financial responsibility;

(e) Decentralization;

(f) Accessibility;

(g) Establishment of clear lines of command and communication.

24. The Executive Director's intention to make UNEP the flagship for human resource management in the United Nations system is also firmly endorsed.

*Annex V*

## REPORT OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME ON PLANS TO IMPLEMENT AGENDA 21 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCED)*

### *Introduction*

1. The present report is submitted in response to paragraph 25 of General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, in which the General Assembly calls for the Governing Council to examine chapter 38 of Agenda 21 and report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, through the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the Governing Council's specific plans to implement Agenda 21.

2. Further, in paragraphs 21 and 22 of that same resolution, the General Assembly calls for reports to be made on the steps taken to implement Agenda 21. The present report is designed so as to reply to that request as well. It should be read in conjunction with the decisions adopted by the Governing Council at its seventeenth session. The principal decisions of the Council related to UNEP's UNCED implementation are outlined in the text and the full text of the decisions are annexed to the report of the Council on the work of its seventeenth session. The report presents a broad outline of UNEP's activities related to UNCED follow-up and has been considered by the Council in that light. It has not been submitted to detailed drafting by the Governing Council.

### *Agenda 21 and UNEP's responsibilities*

3. After reviewing Agenda 21, the Governing Council believes that virtually all of UNEP's activities are addressed in Agenda 21, and that the general thrust of Agenda 21 does not change the mandate of the Council established in General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972. Rather, it reinforces UNEP's role and mandate and provides constructive changes in UNEP's programme emphasis in support of sustainable development.

4. Agenda 21 reinforces the basic catalytic and coordinating role of UNEP and the Governing Council's responsibilities for promoting international cooperation in the field of the environment, providing policy guidance for environmental programmes within the United Nations system, reporting on United Nations environmental programmes, reviewing the state of the world environment, promoting exchange of knowledge and reviewing the impacts of national and international policies and measures, especially on developing countries.

5. Agenda 21, in particular section II on conservation and management of resources for development, coincides with Governing Council decision 15/1 of 25 May 1989 concerning strengthening the role and effectiveness of UNEP. In that decision, the Council decided that UNEP should focus on eight areas of concentration: protection of the atmosphere, including climate change and global warming, the ozone layer and transboundary air pollution; protection of the quality of freshwater resources; protection of oceans and coastal areas; protection of land resources by combating deforestation and desertification; conservation of biological diversity; environmentally sound management of biotechnology; environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals; and the protection of human health and quality of life from degradation of the environment.

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* Adopted by the Governing Council at the 10th plenary meeting of its seventeenth session on 21 May 1993.

6. Agenda 21 also incorporates many of the elements proposed by the Governing Council in the annex to its decision 15/3, also of 25 May 1989, elements that it proposed to the General Assembly for possible inclusion in a resolution concerning the convening of a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The Agenda also contains many of the elements essential for sustainable development outlined in the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, formulated by the Governing Council and adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987. The companion resolution to 42/186 was resolution 42/187 of the same date in which the Assembly welcomed the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. The decisions of the Council at its third special session (3-5 February 1992) are also reflected in Agenda 21.

*UNEP's plans to implement Agenda 21*

7. Agenda 21 provides a significant opportunity to integrate developmental and environmental considerations into a programme of specific achievable actions to support sustainable development and combat poverty. It reinforces UNEP's role and responsibilities in the field of the environment, and UNEP can make an important contribution to Agenda 21's implementation. The Governing Council pledges full support to the implementation of Agenda 21 and has called upon the Executive Director of UNEP to make every effort to strengthen, orient and adjust, as appropriate, UNEP's activities, programmes and medium-term plan and other activities, to help achieve the objectives of Agenda 21.

8. At its seventeenth session, the Council reviewed in detail UNEP's programme for the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 to ensure that it provided maximum support to Agenda 21. In its decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993, it noted that the programme was in transition and would require further development to incorporate the changes required by UNCED. The Council reaffirmed that Agenda 21 must be developed in close cooperation with the Commission on Sustainable Development and requested UNEP's Executive Director to present to the Council at its next session her estimates of the costs for UNEP to implement fully those parts of Agenda 21 specifically recommended for the Programme's attention. The Council underlined that high priority should be given to activities which give direct or indirect substantial support to developing countries. The Council reviewed UNEP's programme priorities and decided to give greater emphasis to environmental management of freshwater resources, environmental management of terrestrial ecosystems and their resources, environmental management of oceans and all kinds of seas and coastal area management, environmental health, human settlements and human welfare, toxic chemicals and waste management, and capacity-building. It gave support as well to the Earthwatch programme of environmental sensing, international environmental law, environmental economics, industry, energy and the environment and cooperation in environmental action. It recognized the need to broaden the base of contributions to the UNEP Environment Fund and called upon all Governments in a position to do so to contribute to the Fund or, where they were already contributing, to increase their contributions on a voluntary basis.

9. The Governing Council, at its seventeenth session, noted with satisfaction that the Executive Director had restructured the UNEP proposed programme of fund activities, with 12 subprogrammes, four of them new, to facilitate cross-referencing with Agenda 21 and to give a clearer overview of UNEP's integrated work programme during formulation, development, implementation and reporting. The Council also noted that UNEP's restructured programme had been presented to the thirty-third session of the United Nations Committee on Programme and Coordination in 1992. The Committee incorporated UNEP's programme into the revised United Nations

medium-term plan 1992-1997, giving high priority to nine of the environmental subprogrammes. The revised plan was approved by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

10. The Council acknowledges that implementation of environmental assessment and management programmes is fundamentally the responsibility of Governments. The role of UNEP in particular is to provide encouragement, support and assistance in the development of the environmental components of Agenda 21 programmes, as well as to ensure the availability of information, assessments and, to the extent possible, technologies and resources to achieve sustainable development goals. Agenda 21 is to be carried out over a period of time with the involvement of many participants. UNEP, as a catalytic and coordinating organization for the environment, would encourage and stimulate a wide range of organizations, including Governments and United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and business, professional, scientific and community action groups, to take measures to achieve sustainable development goals.

*Implementing chapter 38 of Agenda 21: International institutional arrangements*

11. In implementing Agenda 21, the Governing Council attaches priority to chapter 38 on international institutional arrangements, in particular subsection H.1, paragraphs 38.21 to 38.23, which pertain to UNEP. In line with the priority areas on which UNEP is requested to concentrate in paragraph 38.22, the Council has approved the actions described in paragraphs 12 to 43 below, which correspond to those of chapter 38, paragraphs 38.21 to 38.23 concerning the United Nations Environment Programme. It also approved UNEP actions referred to in paragraphs 45-57 below, which relate to other chapters of Agenda 21.

*Strengthening UNEP's catalytic role in stimulating and promoting environmental activities and considerations throughout the United Nations system*

12. In promoting the integration of environment and development to achieve sustainable development, UNEP's traditional catalytic role will assume even greater importance and needs to be emphasized. UNEP's renewed actions to cooperate with other members of the United Nations system in advancing the agreed work in environmental sensing, for example, through the development of an early warning system under Earthwatch, and in providing assistance in cases of environmental emergencies as well as continuing to develop and implement international environmental law are all important examples of the catalytic work of UNEP. In addition, UNEP's new work in collaboration with other United Nations bodies on environmental economics and natural-resource accounting, on environmental indicators and on the development of a United Nations system approach to environmental impact assessment will encourage and support complementary action in the United Nations system. The Council will regularly review UNEP's existing catalytic efforts, such as the regional seas programme, the Earthwatch work of the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS), the Global Resource Information Database (GRID), INFOTERRA and the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC), the education, training and capacity-building and information work, with a view to enhancing their contribution to the implementation of Agenda 21.

*Promoting international cooperation in the field of environment and recommending appropriate policies to that end*

13. The Council will continue to exercise its responsibilities in promoting international cooperation and recommending policies in the field of the environment and will give high priority to the additional priorities

in chapter 38 of Agenda 21. The Council will also cooperate with the Commission on Sustainable Development in monitoring UNEP's work concerning the other chapters of Agenda 21 and ensuring that UNEP's cooperation with other participants and its policy responsibilities are exercised to the fullest. The Council believes that the strengthening and integration of environmental management programmes and of Earthwatch's environmental sensing, early warning and emergency response activities and improving approaches to environmental capacity-building and environmental technology transfer are required in order to develop fully UNEP's cooperation and policy functions.

*Developing and promoting the use of techniques such as natural-resource accounting and environmental economics*

14. The Governing Council, in anticipating the need for greater work in the field of environment and economics, including social aspects, has at its seventeenth session approved the strengthening of UNEP's programme and work in this area, with particular emphasis on environmental economics, natural-resource accounting, environmental impact assessment, including the social impacts, and the valuation of environmental and natural resources. The focus of this effort is on promoting the synthesis of social-economic analytical tools and instruments, testing and employing such tools, integrating environmental and natural resource accounting methodologies, developing policy instruments for environmental management and applying economic tools, especially for use in developing countries. This work will be conducted in close association with other United Nations organizations and development assistance institutions (e.g. World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations regional economic commissions, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

*Environmental sensing, both through improved participation by the United Nations system agencies in the Earthwatch programme and expanded relations with private scientific and non-governmental research institutes; strengthening and making operational its early-warning function*

15. The Governing Council believes that Earthwatch will play a significant role in the implementation of Agenda 21. The global environmental assessments emanating from this United Nations system programme, coordinated by UNEP, should provide a basis for identifying existing knowledge and data and ascertaining where they can be found; pin-pointing gaps and generating new knowledge needed to guide decision-making; gathering and evaluating specific data to discern and predict important environmental conditions and trends; disseminating knowledge and data to scientists and technologists; and providing decision-makers at all levels with the best and timely information in useful forms. The programme needs to draw upon the best scientific research, technologies and information available, and to this end its cooperation with private and non-governmental research institutes will be expanded. Earthwatch will help to identify emerging problems, assess risks and issue early warnings where required. On the basis of its assessments, and in association with management, Earthwatch will contribute to proposing policies to reduce risks, combat environmental degradation and manage resources. Agenda 21 regards environmental sensing as a priority area for UNEP. In this context it calls *inter alia* for improved participation by the United Nations system agencies in the Earthwatch programme. Within the framework of the review of Earthwatch which has to be undertaken as a result of the decisions taken by the Council at its seventeenth session, special attention will be given to these system-wide aspects. The purpose should be to make Earthwatch a

still more efficient instrument for environmental sensing of all elements influencing the global environment, thereby ensuring a balanced approach serving, in particular, the needs of developing countries.

16. In response to General Assembly resolution 44/224 of 22 December 1989, UNEP has already begun to introduce early-warning elements into Earthwatch's monitoring programmes. In cooperation with the United Nations Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems (ACCIS), UNEP is preparing a register of assessment-related environmental activities in the United Nations system as a first step towards establishing a continuing database or compendium. It is developing a computerized catalogue of geographic-based environmental data sets which will facilitate user access to such data through its Global Resource Information Database (GRID) network of cooperating centres. UNEP has published a guidebook for developing countries on preparing for drought and is developing guidelines for early warning of pollution of freshwater resources. UNEP is establishing additional relationships with government agencies, organizations and research institutes with a view to strengthening Earthwatch and its early-warning capability. The Governing Council considers this as an important programme, considering that it is a support to other programmes.

*Coordination and promotion of relevant scientific research with a view to providing a consolidated basis for decision-making*

17. The Governing Council is of the view that sound science and research, upon which UNEP's main achievements have been firmly based, must be at the heart of UNEP's work. UNEP's environmental assessment programme in support of Earthwatch, which encompasses GEMS, GRID, IRPTC and INFOTERRA, was founded to coordinate and provide information from the world's best science and research on all aspects of the environment - terrestrial, oceanic, atmospheric and renewable resources. This information led to the agreement on environmental management programmes in chemicals, the oceans and regional seas and human health. The results of UNEP coordinated science and research assisted Governments to reach environmental protection agreements on ozone depletion, hazardous wastes, climate change and biological diversity.

18. The Governing Council will ensure that UNEP's emphasis on sound research and scientific information continues and is directed increasingly to the needs of sustainable development and implementing Agenda 21. For example, in the light of UNCED, UNEP's desertification programme has redirected its research toward the social impacts of desertification, the economic costs and linkages, and success stories of dryland protection. The terrestrial ecosystem programme is reorienting its efforts towards the application of economic tools in national policies for ecosystems management, for example, concerning forests, water, fisheries and agriculture. For the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), UNEP's climate programme is coordinating climate-related country studies. Within the World Meteorological Organization's World Climate Programme, the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme (WCIRP), coordinated by UNEP and with the IPCC and OECD, will provide national inventories of greenhouse gas sources and sinks that will contribute substantially to the objectives of Agenda 21. UNEP is cooperating with WMO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (IOC/UNESCO) and the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) in the development of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and, additionally, UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WMO, UNESCO and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) are exploring the development of a Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) to help determine the effects of

climate change on terrestrial ecosystems. Many other components of UNEP's scientific and research activities will be directed to sustainable development issues.

*Dissemination of environmental information and data to Governments and to organs, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system*

19. UNEP's information dissemination activities for Governments and the United Nations system will increasingly focus on the needs of sustainable development and the objectives set out in Agenda 21. Such activities include the scientific information services of the environmental components of Earthwatch, GEMS, INFOTERRA, IRPTC and GRID; the provision of environmental data in usable forms; the preparation of publications on climate, fresh-water, oceans, desertification, biological diversity, hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals, health, law and education; and regular news releases, special information packages, features, films, television, exhibits and maintenance of regular contact with Governments and other United Nations organizations.

20. The publication of the report *The World Environment 1972-1992* in December 1992 was an important UNEP contribution to understanding the state of the world environment. Commissioned by the Governing Council, the 884-page report outlines the major environmental issues and trends over the past 20 years, from the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972, to UNCED in 1992. It defines the causes and consequences of the decline of much of the world's environment during that period by linking the environmental conditions to human economic activity. It details the national and international responses to environmental conditions and sets forth an agenda of corrective actions, consistent with Agenda 21, for the community of nations. The Council believes the publication is an important benchmark for action on sustainable development and, at its seventeenth session, agreed to provide another world environment report 10 years hence.

21. At its seventeenth session, the Governing Council also noted that steps would be taken to enhance further UNEP's information dissemination activities by approving a new approach to reporting on the state of the environment. The Council's action entails the regular preparation and dissemination of sectoral/topic-specific scientific reports, assessments and environmental data compilations on topics such as biodiversity, non-renewable resources, pollution and socio-economic aspects of environment and development. As stated in paragraph 20 above, it has requested a comprehensive state-of-the-environment report every 10 years. To assist the Governing Council to keep the world situation under review, it has requested the Executive Director to continue to make a statement at each Council session on key environmental policy issues, new environmental concerns, early warning, environmental events of global significance and actions that should be taken. These reports will be made available to Governments, the United Nations system and the public at large.

*Raising general awareness and action in the area of environmental protection through collaboration with the general public, non-governmental entities and intergovernmental institutions*

22. The Council believes that much of the information provided by UNEP mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs will raise the environmental awareness of the general public, the media, non-governmental entities and intergovernmental institutions. A principal vehicle for stimulating worldwide awareness of environmental concern will continue to be UNEP initiative to celebrate World Environment Day in various regions of the

world. In addition, the Council has called upon the Executive Director to enhance cooperation with non-governmental organizations. As a consequence, UNEP will broaden its programme to reach out to a wider constituency of the non-governmental community action organizations, including those of women and youth, to encourage them to incorporate environmental protection and sustainable development activities into their current and future programmes of work. At the seventeenth session, the Governing Council adopted a special decision on women in the environment and development requesting the Executive Director to ensure that gender considerations were well integrated into all policies, programmes and activities of UNEP (decision 17/4 of 21 May 1993). Additionally, UNEP, in cooperation with UNICEF, published a state-of-the-environment report on children and the environment in 1990. The format of UNEP's collaboration with community action organizations such as the World Organization of the Scout Movement, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the Red Cross, will be applied in designing community-level programmes with Rotary International, the International Lions Club, the Young Women's Christian Association and Young Men's Christian Association, and used as a model for cooperation with other non-environmental NGOs, including those specializing in rural development.

*Further development of international environmental law, in particular conventions and guidelines, promotion of its implementation, and coordinating functions arising from an increasing number of international legal agreements, inter alia, the functioning of the secretariats of the conventions, taking into account the need for the most efficient use of resources, including possible co-location of secretariats established in the future*

23. UNEP will continue to work closely, as requested, with Governments and members of the United Nations system to develop international legal instruments, in particular guidelines and conventions, to help meet the information requirements of such instruments, to promote their implementation and contribute to the process of monitoring compliance. New areas of attention will be of assistance to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of a convention on desertification. In line with chapter 39 of Agenda 21, UNEP will also have to ascertain its role, as well, in the new field of international law for sustainable development. UNEP will also consider measures for formulating a possible international legal instrument on the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure, contained in the amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade and the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. There will also be consideration of possible steps toward a programme of action for protecting the marine environment from land-based activities.

24. Importance will also be placed on implementing recently achieved environmental agreements. High priority will be given to assisting Governments in achieving the early entry into force and effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to establishing the Interim Secretariat and furthering its work programme.

25. To promote further sustainable development through international environmental law, the Governing Council is also collaborating with Governments to encourage more active implementation of other international environmental agreements for which UNEP bears responsibility - the eight regional seas conventions, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its amendments, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the

Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). The Council will also ensure that the UNEP secretariat continues to contribute to the work on other legal instruments, as requested, among them the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Further, the Council will review the needs for additional measures to strengthen international environmental law within the framework of UNEP's Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the present decade, adopted by the Council in its decision 17/25 of 21 May 1993, as a broad strategy for UNEP's activities in the field of environmental law for the 1990s.

26. Aware of the continuing need to assist Governments, especially in developing countries, to develop national environmental legislation, the Council has requested the Executive Director to provide increased assistance to Governments for this purpose and, to this end, to seek to work closely with UNDP in its Capacity 21 programme, as well as with other United Nations agencies and relevant international organizations.

27. Additionally, the Council is acutely aware of the importance of providing coherent coordination, cooperation and consultation among the environmental conventions and interim secretariats administered by UNEP, in order to improve the effectiveness of convention implementation, and has requested the Executive Director to promote further measures to that end (decision 17/25 of 21 May 1993, paragraph 7).

*Further development and promotion of the widest possible use of environmental impact assessments, including activities carried out under the auspices of United Nations specialized agencies, and in connection with every significant economic development project or activity*

28. Drawing upon its experience in developing methodologies, guidelines and principles and in training in environmental impact assessment, and drawing upon the recent advances in methodologies and techniques in the field of environmental impact assessment, UNEP will seek to work within the Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD), the new coordinating machinery under the Secretary-General's Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), to introduce additional and appropriate environmental impact assessment procedures into the developmental projects and activities of the United Nations system.

*Facilitation of information exchange on environmentally sound technologies, including legal aspects, and provision of training*

29. At its seventeenth session, the Governing Council, reinforced its earlier decision 16/33 to promote the transfer of environmentally sound technology through UNEP's cleaner production programme, which facilitates the transfer of technologies and management tools that reduce emissions at the source and conserves raw materials and energy. By paragraph 4 of its decision 17/7 of 21 May 1993, it requested the Executive Director to examine the feasibility of developing international guidelines on what information on potential environmental impacts the exporters of technology should provide to importers.

30. UNEP's Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre will continue to promote the exchange of information on cleaner production technologies, develop its OzonAction information clearing-house to provide information on CFC substitute technologies for protecting the ozone layer,

and carry out technology assessment work. The newly established UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre in Japan will provide information, training and consulting services on technologies used in environmental protection and enhancement of urban areas and freshwater lakes, and it is hoped that additional centres will be established in other parts of the world. The World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), a collaborative organization among UNEP, World Wide Fund for Nature, IUCN, and the World Resources Institute (WRI), will continue to provide assessments of the distribution and abundance of the world's species. UNEP's Collaborating Centre on Energy and the Environment in Denmark will continue to promote information exchange on energy technologies in the development of environmentally sound national energy plans. The Earthwatch programmes are encouraging the exchange of information and provision of training in information handling technologies as part of their work and the UNEP-led secretariats for the conventions on ozone, hazardous wastes and biological diversity are promoting the identification of valuable new technologies in their respective fields.

31. Convinced that the transfer of technology is central to protection of the environment and the needs of developing countries, the Governing Council will continue to promote, where possible, the flow of information and training for new environmentally sound technologies in each of UNEP's programmes.

*Promotion of subregional and regional cooperation and support to relevant initiatives and programmes for environmental protection, including playing a major contributing and coordinating role in the regional mechanisms in the field of environment identified for the follow-up to UNCED*

32. Recognizing that many environmental problems can be solved only through regional collaboration, the Governing Council notes with satisfaction that UNEP's existing programmes devote substantial emphasis to regional cooperation. The regional seas programme and its subregional programmes represent a world wide regional approach to protecting oceans and coastal areas. The programme for the environmentally sound management of inland waters (EMINWA) represents another example of a regional approach, as do the Cairo Programme for African Cooperation of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the Action Plan for the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Plan of Action of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (CAMRE), and the support to environmental programmes in Europe and to subregional programmes in Asia and the Pacific. At its seventeenth session, the Governing Council decided to request the Executive Director to consider how UNEP could best assist the countries with economies in transition (decision 17/27 of 21 May 1993).

33. UNEP recently developed new, bilateral cooperative environmental programmes with the United Nations regional economic commissions. Through the Committee of International Development Institutions on the Environment (CIDIE), it cooperates with the regional development banks and with UNDP/United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in implementing the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

34. At its seventeenth session, the Council encouraged the Executive Director to enhance those and other regional cooperative activities whenever possible and to explore constructive new regional cooperative work in support of Agenda 21 (see decision 17/28 of 21 May 1993).

*Provision of technical, legal and institutional advice to Governments, upon request, in establishing and enhancing their national legal and institutional frameworks, in particular, in cooperation with UNDP capacity-building efforts*

35. The Governing Council, at its seventeenth session, approved a proposed programme of fund activities for UNEP, which includes an expanded programme of capacity-building in virtually every area of UNEP's work. The Governing Council is determined that capacity-building will become an even greater field of UNEP's priority attention. To highlight the priority placed on capacity-building and to focus this work more clearly, a separate subprogramme section has been introduced for "Capacity-building for environmentally sound and sustainable development including the establishment of international environmentally sound technology centres", which seeks to enhance UNEP's existing capacity-building and training activities. All other UNEP subprogrammes contribute to the realization of capacity-building designed to coordinate and strengthen the analytical, policy, institutional and practical capabilities of countries to pursue sustainable development.

36. Meanwhile, UNEP has joined other United Nations organizations and agencies to contribute to UNDP's Capacity 21 programme. The UNEP secretariat has developed a proposal for enhancing UNEP's capability to provide capacity-building services to developing countries and is exploring the possibility of its broad cooperative use with UNDP in meetings of the secretariats just before the Governing Council's seventeenth session and with bilateral assistance agencies and with international lending institutions through the CIDIE. Additionally, in collaboration with UNESCO, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNDP, Governments and universities, UNEP recently established an additional course for environmental managers from developing countries at Adelaide University, Australia, which supplements similar training programmes at universities in Finland, Germany, Switzerland and the United States. UNEP is continuing its cooperation with UNESCO in the International Environmental Education Programme to give an environmental dimension to national educational systems.

*Supporting Governments, upon request, and development agencies and organs in the integration of environmental aspects into their development policies and programmes, in particular through provision of environmental technical and policy advice during programme formulation and implementation*

37. Through UNEP's current technical assistance activities in each programme area, the growing International Environmental Education Programme, the enhanced capacity-building efforts throughout the United Nations system, the contribution of a restructured Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other measures taken to carry out Agenda 21, the Governing Council believes that UNEP and the other members of the United Nations system will increasingly provide assistance to Governments in integrating environmental concerns into development policies and programmes. In reviewing the proposed programme of Fund activities at its seventeenth session, the Governing Council ensured that activities to assist developing countries to assess, monitor and manage environmental problems in accordance with national objectives and priorities were reflected in major programme areas, particularly in the work of the regional environmental programmes, and in Earthwatch programmes. UNEP has also given prominence to strengthening the organizational, administrative, legislative and planning infrastructure in its clearing-house, international law and capacity-building programmes. Each of UNEP's environmental management sectors has incorporated means for assistance in

formulating policy and provision of technical advice and training. The Council will keep this mandate and UNEP's programmes under continuing review and report on them accordingly.

*Further developing assessment and assistance in cases of environmental emergencies*

38. The Governing Council believes there is a need to develop further assessment and assistance to countries in cases of environmental emergencies. The Council also believes that the United Nations can assist in meeting this need. At its sixteenth session in 1991, the Council, in its decision 16/9, endorsed the Executive Director's proposal to develop on an experimental basis a "United Nations centre for urgent environmental assistance acting in cooperation and in coordination with other United Nations agencies, focusing on assessment of and responses to man-made environmental emergencies". The Council noted at that time that a number of Governments and United Nations agencies had emergency capabilities and centres which, it hoped, a United Nations emergency centre might complement and reinforce. At its seventeenth session, the Council reviewed the work of the Centre and decided to continue the Centre's experimental phase for a further 12 months (see decision 17/26 of 21 May 1993). It recommended that, in that time, a number of changes should be made in the Centre's terms of reference to focus its capacities to identify needs for emergency assistance, to analyze international response systems and capacities and to develop concrete proposals for enhancing the international response capacity with a special focus on the improvement of the United Nations system in that regard.

39. With regard to emergency preparedness, the Council calls attention to UNEP's Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at the Local Level (APELL) programme, which is carried out in cooperation with private industry. The programme helps local communities to be alert to and develop their own emergency response plans for industrial hazards. With a network of 69 national focal points, the APELL programme disseminates and exchanges information and offers training and assistance in the case of emergencies. It provides an excellent example of capacity-building and of implementing the emergency response called for in Agenda 21.

*Implementing chapter 38, paragraph 38.23 of Agenda 21*

40. Agenda 21, paragraph 38.23, calls for greater expertise and financial resources for UNEP to perform its Agenda 21 functions. It also calls for closer cooperation and collaboration with other organizations, the strengthening of UNEP's regional offices without weakening its Nairobi headquarters, and the intensifying of cooperation with UNDP and the World Bank. At its seventeenth session, the Governing Council, in its decision 17/32 of 21 May 1993, approved an appropriation of $120/130 million for a core programme for the biennium 1994-1995 from the Environment Fund of UNEP. It also approved an additional appropriation of $10 million for use as and when additional resources became available.

41. In the same decision, the Council noted with concern that the 1992 target of $100 million for contributions to the Environment Fund, which it had agreed upon at its fifteenth session in 1989, had not been achieved. Rather, 1992 contributions were estimated at $63.95 million, well short of the target. Consequently, the Council called upon all Governments to contribute to or increase their contributions to the Environment Fund.

42. Since the Conference at Rio, the UNEP secretariat has held numerous discussions related to UNCED with development organizations within and outside the United Nations system, most notably the regional development banks, both bilaterally and within the framework of CIDIE and GEF. United Nations agencies and programmes have held detailed discussions on

the implementation of Agenda 21 within the framework of the United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and its Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development.

43. As to strengthening UNEP's regional offices, at its fifteenth session in 1989, the Governing Council endorsed the strengthening of UNEP's regional office system when resources became available. The Council regrets that there have not been sufficient resources to achieve this, and it has called upon member Governments to seek to increase their contributions in the years ahead. The Council welcomes the Executive Director's expression of intention to strengthen UNEP's regional offices to enable them, along with other duties, to contribute to the implementation of UNCED at the regional level.

*Highlights of the implementation of other aspects of Agenda 21*

44. The Governing Council notes that UNEP's responsibilities for implementing Agenda 21 go well beyond the specific actions called for in chapter 38 of Agenda 21. In addition to those actions, major UNEP contributions to UNCED and Agenda 21 are highlighted in paragraphs 45 to 57 below.

*Protection of the atmosphere (Agenda 21, chapter 9)*

45. UNEP will work closely with Governments and United Nations agencies in supporting the implementation of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol and of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular through the coordination of climate-related country studies and through encouraging education and awareness-raising programmes. UNEP will also support and participate in research, monitoring, observing and assessment programmes, specifically the World Climate Programme, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Global Climate Observing System.

*Combating deforestation (Agenda 21, chapter 11)*

46. When requested, UNEP will assist in the efforts of Governments, United Nations agencies and the Commission on Sustainable Development on the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests. It will, when requested, also take part in the coordination of global and regional forest assessments and in the development and dissemination of forest data.

*Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought (Agenda 21, chapter 12)*

47. UNEP will work closely with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of a convention on desertification and its secretariat in developing the convention. UNEP databases, assessments and information on a national desertification strategy, as well as the advisory service in international law, will be made available for the negotiators' use. It is expected that UNEP's considerable experience on these issues, related to the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification, will enable UNEP to play an important role in supporting the negotiations and in the structures to be established by the convention. The convention is of particular interest in the follow-up to UNCED, since it will address a large number of issues related to environment and development against the background of socio-economic factors and problems of poverty.

*Protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas (Agenda 21, chapter 17)*

48. The Governing Council, at its seventeenth session, decided to convene in late 1995 an intergovernmental meeting on the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (see decision 17/20 of 21 May 1993).

49. For the organizers of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, UNEP will cooperate fully in holding regional technical preparatory meetings and in working out the preparations for the Conference, making available support from its regional seas programme and funding for participating experts.

*Protecting freshwater resources (Agenda 21, chapter 18)*

50. UNEP's approach to managing water resources, including integrated water basin management activities, will be strengthened by the recent decision to combine all the United Nations Secretariat's freshwater activities under UNEP direction. The United Nations Water Resources Branch will move to UNEP, thus enabling UNEP to address a wider range of freshwater resources related issues, including the relationships to socio-economic aspects and questions related to poverty, especially the availability and protection of drinking water and adequate sanitation.

*Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals (Agenda 21, chapter 19)*

51. At its sixteenth session, in 1991, the Governing Council requested UNEP's Executive Director to consult with International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and others to develop proposals for an intergovernmental mechanism for risk assessment and management of chemicals. Paragraph 19.76 of Agenda 21 invites the executive heads of UNEP, ILO and WHO to organize an intergovernmental meeting within one year to consider the establishment of an intergovernmental forum on chemical risk assessment and management, which the UNEP secretariat is now preparing to organize with its partner agencies in the United Nations (see Council decision 17/28 of 21 May 1993).

*Transfer of environmentally sound technology (Agenda 21, chapter 34)*

52. The Governing Council recognizes the essentiality of expediting the transfer of environmentally sound technology to foster environmentally sound development. At its seventeenth session, it called for stronger measures to encourage technology transfer through UNEP's Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre in France and the recently established Environmental Technology Centre in Japan, as well as through such centres in developing countries in the future, in conformity with Council decisions 16/33 and 16/34 and Agenda 21, chapter 34. The Council called for strengthened work in the technology areas UNEP is currently involved in, as set out in paragraphs 16 and 29 above.

*Science for sustainable development (Agenda 21, chapter 35)*

53. The Governing Council places high priority on strengthening UNEP's contribution to science for managing sustainable development and believes UNEP should make major contributions in strengthening the specific foundations for sustainable development, enhancing scientific understanding of the environmental aspects of sustainable development, improving long-term scientific assessments and helping provide capacity-building in environmental science, as outlined especially in paragraphs 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of this report.

*Strengthening the role of major groups (Agenda 21, section III)*

54. For years, through its outreach programme, UNEP has carried out active programmes of environmental cooperation with groups of women, children and youth, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, business and industry, scientific and technological communities and others. In the months ahead, these efforts will be enhanced and activities with new groups will be considered, with a view to promoting cooperation on sustainable development. Issues of women in environment and sustainable development will be given due consideration (see decision 17/4 of 21 May 1993).

*Global Environment Facility (GEF)*

55. The Governing Council recognizes that GEF can serve as an important source of funding for the implementation of Agenda 21, and the Council places high priority on UNEP's being a full partner with the World Bank and UNDP in guiding the work of GEF. At its seventeenth session, the Council, in its decision 17/40 of 21 May 1993, endorsed UNEP's participation in GEF's pilot phase, noting UNEP's special mandate as the principal United Nations environmental body and bearing in mind the recommendations concerning GEF in Agenda 21. The Council noted the progress achieved by the Participants in the Global Environment Facility and the implementing agencies in outlining the restructuring of the Facility. It noted also the invitations for GEF, on the condition that it is appropriately restructured, to serve as a funding arrangement for the Convention on Biological Diversity, in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention, on an interim basis until the first Conference of the parties and to be the international entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, on an interim basis, for the United Nations Convention on Climate Change.

*Additional Governing Council actions to enhance implementation of Agenda 21*

56. In addition to the numerous actions outlined above, the Governing Council has initiated or reviewed a number of other actions to implement Agenda 21.

*Cooperation between UNEP and the Commission on Sustainable Development*

57. The Governing Council looks forward to cooperating fully with the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) as the Commission carries out its function of monitoring progress and providing appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly in the implementation of Agenda 21 (paragraph 38.13). UNEP will publish reports on its activities concerning implementation (paragraph 38.4) and will participate, as appropriate, in the review of the Commission's work (paragraph 38.11) to be carried out by the Economic and Social Council.

*Governing Council decisions on the strengthening of UNEP*

58. The Governing Council intends that UNEP will play a vital role in the implementation of Agenda 21. At its fifteenth session, the Council proposed a number of measures to improve UNEP's effectiveness and, at the seventeenth session, it took steps to strengthen UNEP's ability to implement Agenda 21. The Council will continue to review UNEP's activities periodically to see what additional measures may be required to strengthen UNEP and its capacity to implement Agenda 21.

*Annex VI*

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION

| *Symbol* | *Title* |
|---|---|
| UNEP/GC.17/1 | Item 2 (b): Provisional Agenda |
| UNEP/GC.17/1/Add.1 | Item 2 (b): Annotated Provisional Agenda |
| UNEP/GC.17/2 | Annual Report of the Executive Director, 1991 Executive summary |
| UNEP/GC.17/3 | On-site interpretation facilities at Gigiri, Nairobi |
| UNEP/GC.17/4 | Joint Progress Report of the Executive Directors of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) |
| UNEP/GC.17/5 and Corr.1 (English only) | Programme matters requiring policy guidance from the council |
| UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.1 | Report on progress and future activities of the World Climate Impact Assessment (WCIRP); Report of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) |
| UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.2 | Earthwatch; environmental indicators |
| UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.3 | Protection of the marine environment from pollution from land-based activities, transfer of environmentally sound technology |
| UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.4 | Convention on biological diversity; urgent measures for the conservation of the African elephant and African and Asian populations of the rhinoceros |
| UNEP/GC.17/5/Add.5 | Intergovernmental meeting on the World Climate Programme |
| UNEP/GC.17/6 | Implementation and mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term environment programme (SWMTEP) for 1990-1995 |
| UNEP/GC.17/7 and Corr.1 | Proposed programme of fund activities for the biennium 1994-1995 (with indicative costs) |
| UNEP/GC.17/8 | Periodicity and duration of sessions of the Governing Council |
| UNEP/GC.17/9 | Executive summary of the comprehensive State-of-the-environment report |
| UNEP/GC.17/10 and Corr.1 (English only) and 2 | International Conventions and Protocols in the field of the environment |

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| UNEP/GC.17/11 | 1991 Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session |
| UNEP/GC.17/12 | 1992 Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to the UNEP Governing Council |
| UNEP/GC.17/12/Add.1 | Arrangements for system-wide cooperation and coordination in the field of the environment |
| UNEP/GC.17/12/Add.2 | Policy advise of the Governing Council of UNEP to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) on future reports of the ACC |
| UNEP/GC.17/13 | Environment Fund: financial report and audited accounts for the biennium 1990-1991 ended 31 December 1991 |
| UNEP/GC.17/14 | Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification 1991-1992 |
| UNEP/GC.17/15 | Executive Summary of the State-of-the-Environment Report 1992: "Poverty and the Environment" |
| UNEP/GC.17/16 | The Environment Fund: use of resources in 1992-1993 and proposed use of projected resources in 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 |
| UNEP/GC.17/16/Add.1 | The Environment Fund: use of resources in 1992-1993 and proposed use of projected resources in 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 |
| UNEP/GC.17/17 | Programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund: revised estimates for the biennium 1992-1993 and proposed budget for the biennium 1994-1995 |
| UNEP/GC.17/17/Add.1 | Provision of language facilities to the Committee of Permanent Representatives |
| UNEP/GC.17/18 | Emerging environmental issues |
| UNEP/GC.17/19 | Management of trust funds and counterpart contributions |
| UNEP/GC.17/20 | Additional proposed follow-up actions to UNCED-related resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session |
| UNEP/GC.17/21 | Improvement of facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi |
| UNEP/GC.17/21/Add.1 | The Mercure Project |
| UNEP/GC.17/22 | Annual Report of the Executive Director 1992 Executive Summary |
| UNEP/GC.17/23 | The Global Environment Facility |

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| UNEP/GC.17/24 | Proposals for an update of the list of selected environmentally harmful chemical substances, processes and phenomena of global significance |
| UNEP/GC.17/25 | Follow-up to the VIII Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean |
| UNEP/GC.17/26 | Review of the organization and management of the United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNEP/GC.17/27 | Suggested Draft Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on Plans to Implement Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development |
| UNEP/GC.17/28 and Corr.1 | The future course of the United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNEP/GC.17/28/Add.1 | Remarks by Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, at the opening of the seventeenth session of the UNEP Governing Council |
| UNEP/GC.17/28/Add.2 and Corr.1 (Arabic only) | Address by the Executive Director of UNEP to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session 17 May 1993 |
| UNEP/GC.17/29 | Evaluation of activities of the United Nations Centre for Urgent Environmental Assistance |
| UNEP/GC.17/Inf.1 | Report on the state of preparedness of documents for the Seventeenth Session |
| UNEP/GC.17/Inf.2 | Memoranda of understanding concerning cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other agencies of the United Nations system |
| UNEP/GC.17/Inf.3 | Planning and budgeting terms |
| UNEP/GC.17/Inf.4 | Strategies for the protection and development of the oceans and coastal areas |
| UNEP/GC.17/Inf.5 | Contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant |
| UNEP/GC.17/Inf.6 | Progress of work under the new programme activity centres |
| UNEP/GC.17/Inf.7 | UNEP follow-up to the 1990 State-of-the-Environment Report: "Children and the Environment" |
| UNEP/GC.17/Inf.8 | Hazardous environmental events |

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| UNEP/GC.17/Inf.9 | Updated scientific report on the environmental effects of the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait |
| UNEP/GC.17/Inf.10 | World Environmental Academy |
| UNEP/GC.17/Inf.11 | Future state-of-the-environment reporting |
| UNEP/GC.17/Inf.12 and Corr.1 | Implementation of Governing Council decision 16/13 on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories |
| UNEP/GC.17/L.1 | Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the performance report on the programme and programme support costs budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and the proposed budget for programme and programme support costs for the biennium 1994-1995 |
| UNEP/GC.17/L.2 | Report of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on Proposals for Enhancing the Effectiveness and Efficiency of UNEP in fulfilling its mandate |
| UNEP/GC.17/L.3 | State of the environment: draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives |
| UNEP/GC.17/L.4 | General policy issues: draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives |
| UNEP/GC.17/L.5 | Coordination within the United Nations system: draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives |
| UNEP/GC.17/L.6 | The Environment Fund, other financial matters and administration: draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives |
| UNEP/GC.17/L.6/Add.1 | The Environment Fund, other financial matters and administration: draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives |
| UNEP/GC.17/L.7 | Programme matters, including the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification: draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives |
| UNEP/GC.17/L.7/Add.1 | Programme matters, including the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification: draft decisions submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives |

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